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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!

MARVEL AGE®

Alan Davis + NEARY

EXCALIBUR™ RULES!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

I know, I know! I promised to continue my series of hard-hitting editorials tackling the issue that's tearing our country apart, turning brother against brother, and even worse, comic book fan against comic book fan. Yes, I'm talking about the great Marvel Zombie Controversy. But before I sound off again, I've got to take care of some other business.

First, tradition demands that I pause to reflect and acknowledge that this very issue marks the fun-filled fifth anniversary of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! And they said we wouldn't last! But seriously, can you believe it? Seems like we just started yesterday, not sixty issues and three annuals ago. Guess it's true what they say, time does fly when you're having fun! Special thanks to our hard-working Managing Editor **Dwight Jon Zimmerman** for his service above and beyond the call of duty. When I suddenly found myself editing the **Spider-Man** titles in addition to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, Dwight was always there to make sure things were running smoothly. Now that things have settled down a bit, we're trying harder than ever to find new ways to make MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE even more exciting and fun for everyone. For example, next issue will be our special holiday issue devoted to Marvel's Graphic Novel line. We're also cooking up a few other special issues to spring at you in '88! But most of all, I've got to thank you for your continued support. I know I say it every year, but we're nothing without you! Your ideas, suggestions, and criticisms are the lifeblood of this magazine! After all this is, and always will be, your magazine; and we need you to tell us what you want. Thankfully you've never been shy about that!

Second, since we're waving the British flag around this issue to celebrate the debut of EXCALIBUR, I thought it might be fun to mention that about ten or so years ago I used to edit Marvel's British line of weekly reprint titles. I used to translate American words into English, design new covers and splash pages, and generally worry about meeting those crazy weekly deadlines. The job was made a lot easier by the easy-going chap handling the editing chores at Marvel's London office. He was even nice enough to pick up a few records that were only available in England and slip them into the New York-bound courier pouches for me. Eventually we both moved on to other things. Now he's part of the chart-topping pop group *The Pet Shop Boys*. Yep, **Neil Tennant** used to work for Marvel UK in his younger days. Just goes to show, you'll never know where an ex-Marvel madman will pop up next!

Well, now I'm almost out of room and I haven't even got to the Marvel Zombie Controversy yet. Tell you what, let's try it again next month, okay? After all what's a month between zombies?

—Jim Salicrup

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles with an **April** cover date.

The climactic double-sized final issue of SPELLBOUND! The debut of Marvel's new mutant team in EXCALIBUR! The New Universe is irreversibly transformed in THE PITT! The Egyptian gods launch their war against Asgard in THOR! And that's just a hint of the excitement in store next month. Don't miss out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner that you want to reserve your favorite titles today!

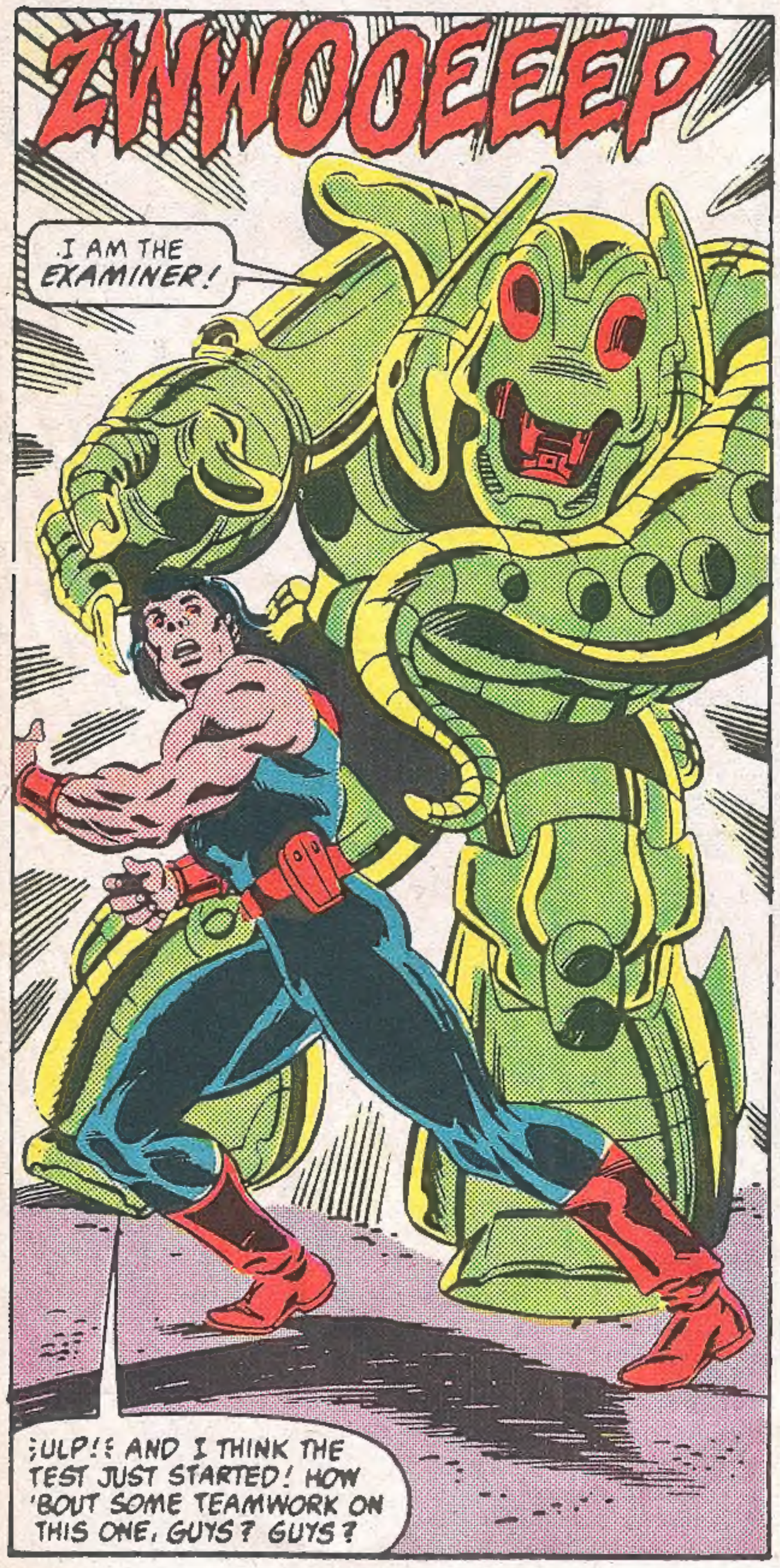
Titles Shipping December 1
On Sale December 22

☐ **DAREDEVIL #253 — Daredevil** is caught in one of his most brutal battles yet against the **Wildboys!** Meanwhile **the Kingpin** initiates the perfect revenge against **DD's** alter-ego, **Matt Murdoch.** Written by **Ann Nocenti,** penciled by **John Romita Jr.,** and inked by **Al Williamson.** 75¢.

new universe™

[ ] **PSI FORCE #18** — Is **Wayne Tucker** the only **Psi Force** member to survive the Sanctuary safehouse explosion? The mysterious international **Medusa Web** wants to know — and they'll tear apart Seatle to get that answer! "Alone in a Crowd" is written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Ron Lim** and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. Direct Sales only. 75c.

[ ] **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #37** — A knife-wielding murderer is killing beautiful models — a crime calling for the skills of private investigator **Dakota North**. But when **Mary Jane Watson-Parker** becomes the killer's next target, nothing can keep **Spider-Man** away! "When Strikes the Slasher" is written by **James Owsley**, penciled by **Steve Geiger**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. 75¢.



[ ] **WEST COAST AVENGERS #31** — Everybody's a critic! But the trouble for **Wonder Man** is that one critic who hates the new movie where he plays **Arkon** . . . is **Arkon**! Not only does the super-strong thunderbolt throwing ruler of Imperion hate the film, he's going to kill **Wondy** to make sure he doesn't star in another! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢

[ ] **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #10** — When an exiled African monarch decides to return to his homeland where rebels are ready to slay him, only one force is equipped to keep him alive — **G.I. Joe**! "Turnabout" is written by **Larry Hama**, and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. $1.00.

[ ] **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #17** — Is the government betraying the **Morituri** heroes they created? **Strikeforce: Morituri** discovers that the truth behind the government's stonewalling is even more devastating! Not only is the government secretly creating a new **Morituri** base, they plan to populate it with a new generation of **Morituri** warriors! Trouble is, this new **Morituri**-making process "Breeds Monsters"! Written by **Peter B. Gillis** and illustrated by **Scott Williams**. Direct Sales only. $1.00

[ ] **THUNDERCATS #22** — The mutants infiltrate the **Thundercats'** ranks with perfect robot copies of **Wilykat** and **Wilykit**! Unless **Lion-O** discovers the truth — and rescues the real **Wilykat** and **Wilykit** — the **Thundercats** are doomed! "Bad Playmates" is written by **James Rose**, penciled by **Jose Delbo** and inked by **Dave Simons**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

[ ] **SPELLBOUND Limited Seies #6** — The final issue of Marvel's first bi-weekly Limited Series is so filled with action, we *had* to make it double-sized! The spellbinder power has driven **Erica** insane! **Zxaxz** is on a rampage! And as if Earth weren't in enough danger, here comes the universe consuming threat even the spellbinders fear . . . the unstoppable **Other**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Carl Potts**. 48 pages. Baxter paper. Direct Sales only. $2.25.

[ ] **EXCALIBUR #1** — They're Marvel's newest and most amazing mutant team yet! From the **X-Men: Shadowcat**, **Nightcrawler**, and **Phoenix**! From England: **Captain Britain** and **Meggan**! Their home base is England. And it looks like that'll be their burial ground, too, because their first battle is against **Mojo** and the **Warwolves**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis**, and inked by **Paul Neary**. 48 pages. Bookshelf format. $3.25

[ ] **TALES OF G.I. JOE #4** — Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #4, "Operation Wingfield"! The **Joes** go undercover to infiltrate a para-military survivalist camp whose goal is to overthrow the American government! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino** and **Jack Abel**. Baxter paper. $1.50.

A Limited Series is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

Bookshelf format is a high-quality, stiff-covered comic book edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

Titles Shipping December 8
On Sale December 29

CAPTAIN AMERICA #340 — Talk about guest-stars — this issue's got them! And **the Captain's** going to need all the help he can get from **D-Man**, **Falcon**, and **Nomad** because he's facing **Mr. Hyde**, **Titania**, **Vibro**, **the Griffin**, **Armadillo**, and **the Captain's** friend, **Iron Man**! "Break-out!" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

SOLO AVENGERS #5 — Two complete **Avengers** stories in one issue!

It's an archery duel to the death between **Hawkeye** and **Trick Shot**! **Silver Sable's** trying to save **Hawkeye** from the duel, because she knows that **Trick Shot** has made sure there's no way **Hawkeye** can win! "When the Arrows Fall" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**.

Scarlet Witch must use all her skills of sorcery to save a woman who is not only haunted by her dead lover . . . but who won't rest until he's taken her into the land of the dead! Written by **Dennis Mallonnee** and illustrated by **John Ridgway**. 75¢.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299 — **Spider-Man** must rescue **Chance** from the merciless white-collar survivalists known as the **Life Foundation!** And that's just the beginning! Revealed at last — the astonishing identity of the super-villain who can slip past **Spidey's** spider sense! The second you see him, you'll know why! "The Last Chance" is written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

THE NEW MUTANTS #62 — **The New Mutants** decide that they will become the new **X-Men!** But will the world let them? Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢

new universe™

THE PITT #1 — A major city in the United States has been annihilated! The world asks how such incomprehensible devastation could happen! This is the story of how deeply this devastation affects not just the world, but also how it changes the future of the New Universe! Plotted by **John Byrne** and **Mark Gruenwald**, scripted by **John Byrne**, and illustrated by **Sal Buscema** and **Stan Drake**. 48 pages. Bookshelf format. $3.25.

GROO THE WANDERER #38 — You always hurt the one you love. But in **Groo's** case, he *eats* him! At least, that's what the world's klutziest barbarian thinks he did to his faithful canine companion **Ruferto**! But the truth is even more outrageous! Created and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** with cryptography by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. $1.00.

POWER PACK #36 — The **Master Mold** sentinel is back and in New York City, and only **Power Pack** stands between him and the potentially most powerful mutant of all time — **Franklin Richards**! "The Twelfth" is written and penciled by **Jon Bogdanove** and inked by **Hilary Barta**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #9 — For the young and the young at heart, it's the best of Star's comics, with classic adventures from HEATHCLIFF, MADBALLS, MUPPET BABIES, and CARE BEARS! A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

ELEKTRA Trade Paperback — The Epic Limited Series re-presented in one volume! **Elektra** fights an out of control **S.H.I.E.L.D.** and some of the most bizarre and psychotic villains ever to appear in comics! Her goal — stop the all-powerful demon determined to become the next President of the United States! Written by **Frank Miller** and painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. For Mature Readers. $12.95.

IRON MAN Graphic Novel — His armor has always been on the cutting edge of technology — and now so is his first Graphic Novel!

It is the future. **Tony Stark** has retired his **Iron Man** armor, and is living a life of technologically-enhanced elegance. Then his world is suddenly shattered. The only way Tony Stark can repair it, and save the world, is to destroy the menace that now threatens Earth. To do that, he must become for the last time . . . Iron Man! Plus: writer artist **Mike Saenz** reveals the amazing secrets behind the creation of the unique computer-generated art and color for the saga! $12.95.

STRANGE TALES #13 — Marvel's premier suspense series presents two complete stories in one issue!

The Punisher hunts **Cloak** and **Dagger** under orders from . . . the **Kingpin**! And caught in the middle is **Power Pack**! "Disorderly Conduct" is written by **Terry Austin**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**.

Doctor Strange is confronted with the ultimate price of Dark Magic — having lost his purity and sentiment, he must surrender his very identity to Evil, to save Earth from the power of **Shuma-Gorath**! "Ascent into Hell" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75c.

HEATHCLIFF #23 — A mummy's curse takes a *cat*-astrophic turn when **Heathcliff**, made up like a mummy by **Iggy** and **Marcy**, is spirited away into Westfinster Museum! Can even the brilliant **Top Dog** help solve the supernatural mystery of "Mummy's Boy"? Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacquelinie Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

ALPHA FLIGHT #57 — The **Alphans** discover that nothing in space can be taken for granted as they become the catalyst for the creation of life on a barren world! But the life that's created is out to kill **Alpha Flight**! "Life" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and penciled by **Jim Lee**. Direct Sales only. $1.00

Title Shipping December 14
On Sale January 4

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #146 — **Conan** is enslaved, and forced to fight as a gladiator in decadent Nemedia. But when the lust-filled **Empress of Nemedia** sets her jaded eyes on **Conan**, his fight-filled future takes an intrigue-laden turn for the worse! "Blood Circus" is written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Black and White Magazine For Mature Readers. $2.00.

Titles Shipping December 15
On Sale January 5

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #61 — A special look at the entire line of Marvel Graphic Novels! Plus: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page Marvel Trivia Quiz and more! Direct Sales only. 50c

[ ] **THE AVENGERS** #290 — The **Super-Adaptoid** has absorbed the power of **Kubik** who was born out of the all-powerful Cosmic Cube! Now the **Super-Adaptoid** is about to face the only man who's ever humiliated him with defeat after defeat . . . **Steve Rogers**, **the Captain**! Guess who wins this time! "The World According to the Adaptoid" is written by **Ralph Macchio**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

[ ] **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #342 — **Half-Life** returns! If you think the **Hulk's** going to win this battle again, think again because **Half-Life** is controlled by the **Hulk's** greatest enemy, the gamma-powered **Leader**! "No Human Fears" is written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane**. 75¢.

[ ] **MARVEL TALES** #210 — From AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #134, re-presenting **Spidey's** classic confrontation with the **Tarantula**! But just when **Spidey** thinks he's won the battle, **the Punisher** strikes! "Danger is a Man Named Tarantula" is written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Ross Andru**, and inked by **Frank Giacoia** and **David Hunt**, with a new cover by **Mike Zeck**. 75¢.

[ ] **SILVER SURFER** #10 — **The Elders of the Universe** vs. **Galactus** — the *final* battle! The astonishing reason for the **Kree/Skrull** war revealed! And a guest-star more powerful than **Galactus**, **the Elders**, **the Silver Surfer**, and **Nova** put together! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshal Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

[ ] **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #228 — The **X-Men** are dead! Long live . . . the **X-Men**? Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

new universe™

[ ] **D.P. 7** #18 — What has happened to **Blur's** family? In a suspense-filled tie-in to THE PITT, **Blur** dashes across America to discover if his family survived the annihilation. Afraid of the consequences for **Blur** if his worst fears are realized, the **D.P. 7** secretly follows. But their journeys will not be easy because all roads leading to that city are "Bad Roads." Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. Direct Sales only. 75¢.

[ ] **JUSTICE** #18 — A major American city has been blasted into oblivion. Was the catastrophe caused by a paranormal? And if it was, are there other paranormals ready to unleash even more destruction? That's what **Justice** seeks to discover. Wait'll you see the answers he uncovers! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Lee Weeks**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

[ ] **AIR RAIDERS** #4 — An innocent village will become the next victim in the mad **Baron Ee-Lon's** decadent quest to create the ultimate exotic home for himself. Against the overwhelming forces at **Baron Ee-Lon's** command, what can **the Air Raiders** do to stop him? "Orchids for the Baron" is written by **James Rose**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Jim Sinclair**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

[ ] **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #205 — **Conan** has to enter the heart of the infernal realm to rescue **Red Sonja** from her demonic captors. Just one problem, even if he *can* rescue her, there's no way they can return the way they came! Written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

[ ] **FLINTSTONE KIDS** #5 — Poor **Freddy Flintstone** is caught between a rock and a hard place when he finds himself **Dreamchip's** dance partner in the First Annual Bedrock Dance Marathon. Is little **Wilma** going to take this lying down? No way! The revenge she takes out on **Dreamchip** turns out to be a real toe-tapper! "Bedrock Around the Clock" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

[ ] **FOOFUR** #5 — When escaped convincts hide in the canine **Foofur's** home, **Foofur** and his friends turn the house into a fortress that makes the convicts begin to wish for some place truly safe — like prison! "Fernando's Hideaway" is written by **Tony Franco**, penciled by **Ben Brown**, and inked by **Jacquelinie Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

[ ] **G.I. JOE** #70 — A refugee rescue mission plunges the **Joes** into a Central American country wracked by revolt! But escaping a blazing plane crash, and battling rebels in the jungle are just the beginning of the **Joes'** trouble! For hard on their heels is **Destro** and his **Cobra** forces! "Fair Trade" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

[ ] **SILVERHAWKS** #5 — It's fun! It's fabulous! It's the Fantascreen! And unfortunately the **Silverhawks** discover too late that it's got a mind-numbing kick that won't quit! With the **Silverhawks** helplessly enthralled, the evil **Mon* Star's** patch is clear to conquer the galaxy! "Fantascreen" is written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Mike Witherby**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks**. A Star comic. $1.00.

[ ] **MARSHAL LAW** #3 — It's San Francisco of the future — worse than any nightmare! **Marshal Law** takes on the crew of psychopaths from **Psycho-Silo #7**, led by **Hitler Hernandez** and **Juda S. Scariot**. Written by **Pat Mills** and illustrated by **Kevin O'Neill**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.95.

[ ] **MARVEL FANFARE** #37 — The wild wrap-up to the Asgardian adventures of **the Warriors Three**! Can **Fandral the Dashing**, **Hogun the Grim**, and **Volstagg the Enormous** thwart the evil schemes of **Loki** and save their native land? Written by **Alan Zelenetz** with art by **Charles Vess**. Direct Sales only, Hudson paper. $1.50.

[ ] **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS** #5 — Find out about the first **Kree/Skrull** war! It's here, along with more great adventures from THE AVENGERS #s 88–110! Featuring complete and concise story synopses, character and weapons listings, story and art credits, full-page color cover reproductions . . . face it, when it comes to reference volumes, this one's got it all! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**, with a wraparound cover by **Tom Grindberg** and **Tom Morgan**. 48 pages. Baxter paper. $2.95.

Titles Shipping December 22
On Sale January 12

[ ] **FANTASTIC FOUR** #313 — This is it — **Doctor Doom** vs. **Kristoff**. The throne of Latveria is the prize! Wait'll you see which side the **Fantastic Four's** on! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

[ ] **IRON MAN** #229 — **Iron Man** puts on his Stealth armor and carries his war against all armored warriors to Russia where he attacks the **Crimson Dynamo** and **Titanium Man**. Just one hitch, unknown to **Iron Man** — they're ready for him! Plotted by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

[ ] **THE 'NAM** #17 — New men join the company. But don't give any of them a long lease on life because the glory-grabbing **Lt. Alarnick** is going to get some of them killed when he takes **Sgt. Little** and the men on a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong "Back in the Boonies." Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherhwood**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping December 28
On Sale January 25

[ ] **CONAN SAGA** #11 — Re-presenting in black-and-white the classic barbarian adventures of the world's greatest barbarian hero, **Conan**!

From CONAN THE BARBARIAN #18 — "Thing In The Temple" written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **Gil Kane**, and inked by **Dan Adkins**.

From SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #1 — "Curse Of The Undead Man" written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Pablo Marcos**.

Plus: from ASTONISHING TALES #10, a savage **Ka-Zar** saga written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Barry Windsor-Smith** and inked by **Sal Buscema**. A Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

[ ] **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #137 — You remember how deadly the old **Tarantula** was. Now meet the even deadlier *new* **Tarantula**! The **Tarantula's** mission — destroy certain illegal aliens from his homeland living in the United States. What worries **Spidey** most is that the U.S. government is *helping* the **Tarantula**! "Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide" is written by **Gerry Conway** and illustrated by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

[ ] **THOR** #390 — The Egyptian gods launch their greatest attack yet against Asgard! Where's **Thor**? He's on Earth — the target of an army of unbeatable assassins sent by the Egyptian gods! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

[ ] **X-FACTOR** #27 — The future looks bright for **X-Factor**. But will **X-Factor** make the fatal slip of believing that it is? "The Pursuit of Happiness" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walter Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢

[ ] **CLASSIC X-MEN** #20 — Re-presenting from THE UNCANNY X-MEN #114: the **X-Men** trapped in the Savage Land and the victims of the psychic vampire **Sauron**! "Desolation" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**, with new art penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**. Plus: an all-new tale exploring the trauma of **X-Men** trying to cope in a land ruled by the Laws of Nature — a land ideal for **Wolverine**, but he's not there! Written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.00.

[ ] **MADBALLS** #9 — Those mayhem-causing **Madballs** bounce into real trouble when every villain they've ever faced gangs up on them! **Dr. Frankenbeans**, **Colonel Corn**, **Weirdbeard the Pirate**, **Miss Tic the Mystic**, **Maiden Hong Kong**, **Anchor-Man**, and more have joined forces to do what others only dream about — the destruction of the **Madballs**! "The Return of Everyone" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. $1.00.

[ ] **THE TRANSFORMERS** #39 — Talk about opportunities! **Spike Witwicky's** got what anyone would think to be the chance of a lifetime — the chance to be the **Autobot Headmaster** leader! But why does he hesitate? Because if **Spike** becomes a **Headmaster**, his little brother **Buster** will die! Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

[ ] **ALIEN LEGION** #3 — The **Alien Legion's** old enemy the **Harkilon Empire** is back! They've conquered a planetoid and are moving it across space into the heart of the **Galarchy**! The **Legion's** new strike-force, under the command of **Major Sarigar**, is the only hope of the **Galarchy** populace. Written by **Charles Dixon** and illustrated by **Larry Stroman**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. $1.25.

[ ] **G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE** #9 — Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #s 23 and 24, the gripping two-part saga: "Cobra Commander Captured at Last!" and "The Commander Escapes!" written by **Larry Hama** and illustrated by **Russ Heath**, **Mike Vosburg**, **Jon D'Agostino**, and **John Tartaglione**. Plus: they are Britain's answer to **G.I. Joe**! They're **Action Force**! Find out how their war against Cobra is waged in the re-presentation of their sagas first seen in England! A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

[ ] **BLOOD** #4 Limited Series — **Blood's** quest concludes! And not even he is prepared for the answers that he finds! Written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** and painted by **Kent Williams**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. Bookshelf format. For Mature Readers. $2.95.

SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

Armadillo — CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
Egyptian Gods — THOR #390
Elders of the Universe — SILVER SURFER #10
Galactus — SILVER SURFER #10
The Griffin — CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
Half-Life — INCREDIBLE HULK #342
Kaluu — STRANGE TALES #13
Kingpin — STRANGE TALES #13
Leader — INCREDIBLE HULK #342
Master Mold — POWER PACK #36
Mr. Hyde — CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
The Other — SPELLBOUND #6
Shuma-Gorath — STRANGE TALES #13
The Slasher — WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #37
Soviet Super-Soldiers — IRON MAN #229
Tarantula (new) — SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #137
Titania — CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
Tombstone — SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #137
Trickshot — SOLO AVENGERS #5
Ultimate Adaptoid — AVENGERS #290
Venom — AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299
Vibro — CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
Zxaxz — SPELLBOUND #6

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping in January

DAREDEVIL #253 — by **Nocenti**, **Romita Jr.**, and **Williamson**.
PSI FORCE #19 — by **Nicieza**, **Lim**, and **de la Rosa**.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #38 — by **Nicieza** and **Saviuk**.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #32 — by **Englehart**, **Milgrom**, and **Machlan**.
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #13 — by **Caragonne** and **Wilson**.
HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE #7
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #18 — by **Gillis** and **Williams**.
THUNDERCATS #23 — by **Conway**, **Ramos**, and **Springer**.
CONAN THE KING #46 — by **Kraar**.
TALES OF G.I. JOE #5
CAPTAIN AMERICA #341 — by **Gruenwald** and **Dwyer**.
SOLO AVENGERS #6
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane**.
STRANGE TALES #14 — by **Austin**, **Blevins**, **Gillis**, and **Shoemaker**.
GROO THE WANDERER #39 — by **Aragonés** with **Evanier**.
THE NEW MUTANTS #63 — by **Simonson**, **Blevins**, and **Austin**.
ALF #2
VIDEO JACK #4 — by **Bates** and **Giffen**.
ALPHA FLIGHT #57 — by **Mantlo** and **Lee**.
POWER PACK #37 — by **L. Simonson**.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #147 — by **Dixon** and **Kwapisz**.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #62 — A look at Epic's newest line of comics!
D.P. 7 #19 — by **Gruenwald**, **Ryan**, and **Tanghal**.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #342 — by **David** and **McFarlane**.
JUSTICE #18 — by **David** and **Weeks**.
MARVEL TALES #211 — by **Conway** and **Andru**; reprints ASM #185.
SILVER SURFER #11 — by **Englehart**, **Rogers**, and **Rubinstein**.
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #229 — by **Claremont**, **Silvestri**, and **Green**.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #206 — by **Owsley** and **Semeiks**.
G.I. JOE #71 — by **Hama** and **Wagner**.
MUPPET BABIES #19 — by **Kremer** and **Severin**.
VISIONARIES #4 — by **Conway** and **Bagley**.
BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY #4
MARVEL FANFARE #38
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #6 — compiled by **Olshevsky**.
CONAN SAGA #12 — by **Thomas** and **J. Buscema**.
FANTASTIC FOUR #314 — by **Englehart**, **Pollard**, and **Sinnott**.
IRON MAN #229 — by **Michelinie**, **Bright**, and **Layton**.
THE 'NAM #18 — by **Murray** and **Vansant**.
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #138 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema**.
THOR #391 — by **DeFalco**, **Frenz**, and **Breeding**.
X-FACTOR #28 — by **L. Simonson**, **W. Simonson**, and **Wiacek**.
CLASSIC X-MEN #21 — by **Claremont**, **Byrne**, **Austin**, and **Bolton**.
CARE BEARS #16
TRANSFORMERS #40 — by **Budiansky**, **Delbo**, **Akin**, and **Garvey**.
TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #8
THE AVENGERS #291 — by **W. Simonson**, **J. Buscema** and **Palmer**.
MOEBIUS #5 — "Gardens of Aedena" by **Moebius**.

Titles Shipping in February

DAREDEVIL #254 — by **Nocenti**, **Romita Jr.** and **Williamson**.
PSI FORCE #20 — by **Nicieza**, **Lim**, and **de la Rosa**.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #39 — by **David** and **S. Buscema**.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #33 — by **Englehart**, **Milgrom**, and **Machlan**.

G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #11 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe**.
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #19 — by **Gillis** and **Williams**.
THUNDERCATS #24 — by **Rose** and **Delbo**.
TALES OF G.I. JOE #6
CAPTAIN AMERICA #342 — by **Gruenwald** and **Dwyer**.
SOLO AVENGERS #7 — by **DeFalco** and **Bright Layton** and **Guice**.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #301 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane**.
STRANGE TALES #15
GROO THE WANDERER #40 — by **Aragonés** with **Evanier**.
HEATHCLIFF #24
ALPHA FLIGHT #58 — by **Mantlo**.
THE NEW MUTANTS #64 — by **L. Simonson**, **Blevins**, and **Austin**.
POWER PACK #38 — by **L. Simonson**.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #148 — by **Dixon**, **Kwapisz**, and **Chan**.
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #10
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #63
THE AVENGERS #292 — by **W. Simonson**, **J. Buscema**, and **Palmer**.
D.P. 7 #20 — by **Gruenwald**, **Ryan**, and **Tanghal**.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #343 — by **David** and **McFarlane**.
JUSTICE #19 — by **David** and **Weeks**.
MARVEL TALES #212
SILVER SURFER #12 — by **Englehart**, **Rogers**, and **Rubinstein**.
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #230 — by **Claremont**, **Silvestri**, and **Green**.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #207 by **Owsley** and **Semeiks**.
FLINTSTONE KIDS #6
AIR RAIDERS #5
FOOFUR #6
G.I. JOE #72 — by **Hama** and **Wagner**.
SILVERHAWKS #6 — by **Perry** and **Witherby**.
MARSHAL LAW #4 — by **Mills** and **O'Neill**.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #6 — compiled by **Olshevsky**.
CONAN SAGA #13 — by **Thomas** and **J. Buscema**.
FANTASTIC FOUR #314 — by **Englehart**, **Pollard**, and **Sinnott**.
IRON MAN #230 — by **Michelinie**, **Bright**, and **Layton**.
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #139 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema**.
THE 'NAM #19 — by **Murray** and **Vansant**.
THOR #392 — by **DeFalco**, **Frenz**, and **Breeding**.
X-FACTOR #29 — by **L. Simonson**, **W. Simonson**, and **Wiacek**.
CLASSIC X-MEN #22 — by **Claremont**, **Byrne**, **Austin**, and **Bolton**.
MADBALLS #10
TRANSFORMERS #41 — by **Budiansky**, **Delbo**, **Akin**, and **Garvey**.
ALIEN LEGION #4 — by **Dixon** and **Emberlin**.
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #10
DR. ZERO #1 — by **Chichester**, **Clark**, and **Cowan**.
YOUNG WIZARDS #1
WHAT IF #1
S.H.I.E.L.D. #1 — by **Harras**, **Neary**, and **DeMulder**.
ALF #3
SIX FROM SIRIUS Trade Paperback — by **Moench** and **Gulacy**.
THE PUNISHER #9 — by **Baron**.
MARVEL FANFARE #38
FRAGGLE ROCK #1
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #139 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema**.
PUNISHER AND DAREDEVIL #1
CLOAK AND DAGGER Graphic Novel

NEWSWATCH

HEY, HEY, HEY, DO THE MARVEL SHUFFLE . . . AND MARVEL TREATS FOR HALLOWEEN TRICKSTERS

ITEM: Our Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**, has been promoted to Vice-President Direct Sales. That means that Carol will be even more involved with everything that has to do with finding new, better, and faster ways to get our comics, posters, information, and what-not to Direct Sales shops and store chains. It's a big job, but Carol does it all with a smile. Congratulations, Carol!

ITEM: Welcome aboard, **Dwayne McDuffie**! Dwayne is Special Projects Editor **Bob Budiansky's** new assistant, replacing **Rosemary McCormick-Lowy** who left the Bullpen for the calmer world of grade-school teaching. Good luck, Rosemary, we'll miss you! Dwayne hails from Detroit, Michigan, and attended the University of Michigan and New York University. Dwayne told us he began reading comics when he was five years old. As for what it's like for him now that he's here at Marvel? Dwayne smiled and said, "I'm having fun!"

ITEM: There's been another change in the wacky Bullpen. **Jim Novak** is leaving the Bulpen as Art Production Coordinator. But even though we won't be seeing him in the office every day, we're really not saying good-by. For we'll soon be seeing Jim's name once again in the credits of our comics as letterer. Good luck, Jim!

And say hello to our new Traffic Production Manager, **Virginia Romita**! Virginia's no stranger to the Bullpen, for as our Traffic Manager, she's already familiar with the ups and downs of getting our comics out on time. And, yes, she's also the wife of our Art Director, **John Romita**, and mother of DAREDEVIL penciler, **John Romita Jr.** Congratulations, Virginia!

ITEM: For the past couple of years, **Mindy Fisch** has been brightening up faces all over the Bullpen while keeping track of orders from the foreign publishers who print Marvel Comics overseas. Now that she's graduated from Baruch College, though, Mindy is leaving all that behind and moving on to a new, full-time job.

But hey, you don't think we'd let Mindy leave Marvel, do you? So say "Hello" to Marvel's brand new contracts coordinator! No, that doesn't mean that Mindy's job is having people rubbed out; she's going to be putting together and following up on contracts for all the foreign publishers who want to print the adventures of El Hobré Araña (that's Spider-Man to you) and l'Incroyable Hulk.

And by the way, for all you sibling watchers out there, Mindy is not only a bona fide college graduate but she's also the sister of none other than MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's **Sholly Fisch**! Considering Sholly, Mindy, and all the other sets of Marvel siblings — including **John** and **Sal Buscema**, **John** and **Marie Severin**, and (of course) **Stan Lee** and **Larry Lieber** — we're getting to the point where we'll mean it *literally* when we say Marvel's one big family!

ITEM: Halloween is a time for tricks and treats. And some trick and treaters noticed something special in their bags this year — mini Marvel comics! We did up a special series of 6½" × 4¼" comics featuring the adventures of **Spider-Man**, **Captain America**, **Heathcliff**, and the **Care Bears** for Halloween gifts.

And the way our digest-sized comics caught on, they might just crowd out candy as the favorite treat!

HEATHCLIFF TM and 1987 McNaught Syndicate, Inc

It's Top Ten time again! This month's listing of the ten best-selling Marvel titles in the Direct Sales market is for August, 1987. But it's no longer compiled by our delightful Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**. It's now done by our new Vice-President Direct Sales, Carol Kalish! Just 'cause she's a big-shot now, doesn't mean she's going to forget her pals at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE! After all, she was this mag's very first editor!

1 — **THE UNCANNY X-MEN #224**
2 — **X-FACTOR #23**
3 — **SILVER SURFER #6**
4 — **THE NEW MUTANTS #58**
5 — **SOLO AVENGERS #1**
6 — **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #295**
7 — **THE 'NAM #13**
8 — **CLASSIC X-MEN #16**
9 — **G.I. JOE #66**
10 — **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #33**

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Remember when X-MEN #200 was in the making, and the creative team flew to Paris to research and plot the story? Well, when the crew here at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE asked me to plan this month's quiz around Marvel in Britain, I asked if perhaps a little trip to the Isles wouldn't have been in order!

Good idea, right? But what response did I get? I could only travel as far as my own budget would take me . . . so watch out, world! Next month's quiz . . . Marvel in Tucson, Arizona!

Thinking back over the exploits of our Marvel super-types in the British Empire takes me back to when I visited England myself, back in 1982. As with my first trip to New York, a curious phenomenon happened — I'd recognize as many famous places from Marvel Comics stories as I would from films or photographs! It's strange, isn't it, when you feel like you've been somewhere before, but only because you've seen the place in four colors?

A change of format, this month, just for kicks: multiple choice! When I taught school a few years back (an experience not uncommon to folks working in comics, as **Roy Thomas** and **Alan Zelenetz** can testify), my students always prayed for multiple choice quizzes and tests. The rationale is simple: the answer's on this page somewhere, all you've got to do is identify it! So rather than coming up with the answers from whole cloth, all you've got to do is select the correct response from the ones handily provided! (Hint: generally avoid Choice D!)

The rest of the quiz follows the standard game plan: questions are roughly aranged in chronological order, with the most recent items first, and answers in the back of the book. So sit down with some tea and crumpets, or a nice plate of scones, and let your mind travel back to some of these Marvelous British adventures!

1. Which mutant hangout lies above Cape Wrath off the north coast of Scotland?
A) Cassidy Keep B) Muir Isle
C) Stonehenge D) Conal's Bar n' Grill

2. What group was ultimately behind the terrorist activities **Peter Parker** and **Joy Mercado** investigated in Belfast?
A) **AIM** B) **Roxxon**
C) **The Sinister Syndicate**
D) **Romita's Raiders**

3 What recent foe of the **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch** was born in York, England?
A) **Glamor** B) **The Toad**
C) **The Grim Reaper** D) **Ultron**

4 What object did **Brian Braddock** grasp to be endowed with the powers of **Captain Britain**?
A) An amulet B) A sword
C) A sceptre
D) A back issue of FANTASY MASTERPIECES

5. Speaking of Captain Britain, what foe did he and **Captain America** recently team up to defeat?
A) **Chthon** B) **Flag-Smasher**
C) **Modred** D) **Rupert Murdoch**

6 What hero withstood one of his greatest challenges just lately in Dorrington Abbey, Lincolnshire?
A) **The Gargoyle** B) **Cloak**
C) **Dr. Strange** D) **Captain Ultra**

7 In an alternate reality which cast member of the AVENGERS became King of England?
A) **Simon Williams** B) **Tony Stark**
C) **Rick Jones** D) **Edwin Jarvis**

8. Which nasty stirred up endless trouble while impersonating British country doctor **Charles Cromwell**?
A) **Deacon Frost** B) **Rex Carpenter**
C) **Baron Blood** D) **Oliver North**

9. **Dr. Strange** met this woman while time-traveling in the Britain of World War II:
A) **Victoria Bentley** B) **Pamela Hawley**
C) **Emma Frost** D) **Mrs. Miniver**

10 **Morgan Le Fay** dueled long and hard with **Jessica Drew**, the first **Spider-Woman**; one of her first pawns in the game was:
A) **Excaliber** B) **The Needle**
C) **Count Vermis** D) **Lockjaw**

11 **Brian Falsworth** fought alongside the **Invaders** under two masks; one was **Union Jack** and the other?
A) **The Mighty Destroyer** B) **Dyna-Mite**
C) **The Blue Bullet** D) **Golden Girl**

12 **Inspector Chelm** was a British detective who made irregular appearances as a supporting cast member of what Marvel mag?
A) SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS
B) TOMB OF DRACULA
C) NOVA D) PATSY AND HEDY

13 When **Shang-Chi Sir Denis Nayland Smith**, and friends left the British secret service, what was the name of the independent investigating firm they established?
A) **Occidental Investigations**
B) **Freelance Restorations**
C) **Undercover Explorations**
D) **Accidental Mutilations**

14 What Marvel sweetheart found herself turned into a venomous spider-monster while on a London sabbatical?
A) **Bobbi Morse** B) **Alicia Masters**
C) **Crystal** D) **May Parker**

15 **Gwen Stacy's** uncle and aunt in London are:
A) **Arthur** and **Nancy**
B) **George** and **Gwen**
C) **Robert** and **Sheila**
D) **Fred** and **Ethel**

16. **Nick Fury** grappled with what legendary beast back in SHIELD #3?
A) **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
B) **The Hell-Hound of Ravenlock**
C) **The Loch Ness Monster**
D) **Papa Smurf**

17 **Triton** and the **Sub-Mariner** first teamed to free London from what insidious plant menace?
A) **The Leviathan** B) **The Spore**
C) **The Triffids** D) **Audrey II**

18 The first British citizen to star in his solo continuing Marvel series was:
A) **Ka-Zar** B) **The Black Knight**
C) **Iron Fist** D) **Paul Neary**

19 The secret identity of the original **Black Knight** was
A) **Sir Justin** B) **Sir Percy**
C) **Sir Gawaine** D) **Paul Neary**

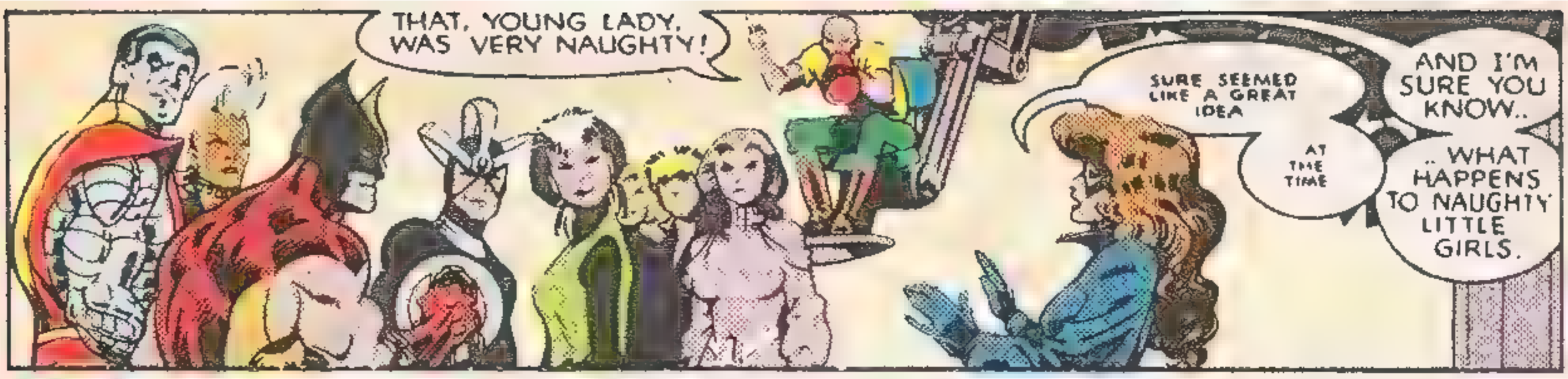
20 In one of his first exploits with the Avengers, whom did Captain America rescue from 18th century London?
A) **Rick Jones** B) **The Wasp**
C) **Kang** D) **Paul Neary**

X-TRA

THE MUTANT REPORT

X-TRA

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 1


THAT, YOUNG LADY, WAS VERY NAUGHTY!
SURE SEEMED LIKE A GREAT IDEA
AT THE TIME
AND I'M SURE YOU KNOW..
..WHAT HAPPENS TO NAUGHTY LITTLE GIRLS.

The devastating carnage in the tragic Fall of the Mutants may be over, but the saga continues. For as writer Chris Claremont, penciler Alan Davis, and inker Paul Neary reveal, one of the consequences of the apparent death of the X-Men is the creation of a new mutant group based in England, Excalibur! EX CALIBUR will debut in December in a 48 page, $3.25 bookshelf format volume and will continue as a regular monthly 75¢ comic.

Initially composed of the former X-Men, Shadowcat and Nightcrawler, the former New Mutant, Phoenix and Captain Britain and his girl-friend, the shape-changer Meggan, Excalibur's members find themselves brought together by their shared sorrow over the deaths of the X-Men which they saw on television. They unite to carry on the dream of their mentor and friend, Professor Xavier — to ultimately have mutants live in peace and harmony with humans, and for mutants to be the humans' defenders against any super-powerful menace.

Leader of the group is England's foremost hero, Captain Britain. Captain Britain was first seen on this side of the Atlantic in MARVEL TEAM-UP #65 when, over a misunderstanding, he fought Spider-Man. In the opening saga of EXCALIBUR, Captain Britain is in mourning – wallowing in self-pity because his sister and member of the X-Men, Psylock, is dead. Meggan discovers that she cannot shake him of the belief that he was in some way responsible for that death. Fearing for his sanity, Meggan seeks out Nightcrawler and Kitty Pryde, Captain Britain's friends from the X-Men, who are at Muir Island. They agree to help Meggan. And from that meeting comes the decision to create Excalibur.

Joining the team soon after is the New Mutant, Rachel, known to everyone outside of the X-Men and New Mutants as Phoenix. She has reasons of her own for entering the group, some of them linked to her complex origin. Ultimately, Phoenix's complete origin will be revealed in EXCALIBUR. It promises to have more than a few surprises

The saga of Excalibur will be one of "cosmic comedy" according to Chris Claremont. The adventures will have more light-hearted touches, the tone will not be as consistently serious as in the X-MEN. As for the "cosmic" aspect, in their first adventure, Excalibur is forced to battle the alien Saturnyne, which is out to annihilate Phoenix. Excalibur also finds itself facing Captain Britain's old nemesis, the Technet. Mojo is another menace destined to cross paths with Excalibur in the future. And Excalibur will find itself traveling to other planets as the series progresses

Excalibur's home base is in London, England This will create a number of unusual problems for the team because the populace, unlike the residents of New York City, have no real experience with super heroes and the consequences of their adventures.

Captain Britain, himself, will discover that he has some problems dealing with his teammates as well He has in the past been primarily a loner. Now he must be a leader of an international group. He discovers that he has a lot to learn more than he realizes As a result, Captain Britain will find himself relying on Shadowcat more than he thought for help in running Excalibur. This will prove to be both a humbling and an aggravating experience for him.

Shadowcat and Nightcrawler will discover that the bond of friendship between them will become stronger. Shadowcat is becoming more corporeal, but her density is still far from normal. Nightcrawler continues to be his devil-may-care self and it is his presence and often deliberate antics which do much to lighten the mood in EXCALIBUR.

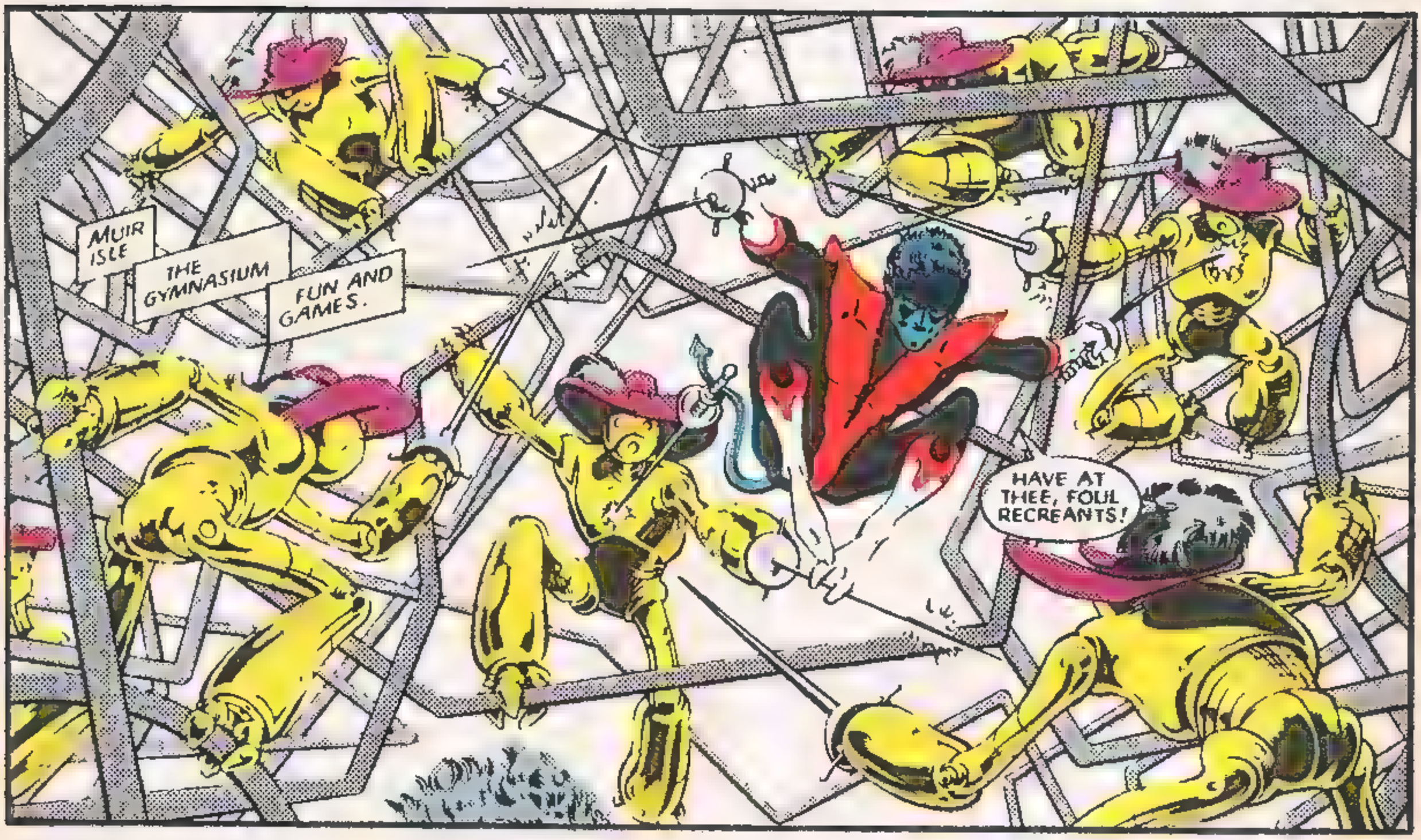
Meggan is a mutant orphan who has no real conception of self, and whose self-esteem is almost non-existent. As a result she uncontrollably manifests physically what she feels emotionally. Thus if someone's yelling at her, she tends to become very plain — even ugly. If, on the other hand, someone's complimenting her, she will begin to look beautiful, radiant. As a member of Excalibur, Meggan will find herself in increasingly stressful situations. How she will survive them is one of the more complex problems the team will have to tackle

The most unusual member of the team is Widget, who makes an appearance in the bookshelf format volume, but is not clearly seen and does not join Excalibur until the regular series begins. Widget is a mutant robot And his origin is one of the most amazing in the Marvel Universe. His personality is full of quirks. Some of the members will come to think that they never should have allowed him to join,

Eventually Excalibur will meet the New Mutants, and have an emotion-filled reunion with the X-Men But before that happens, Excalibur's adventures will carry them on a wild romp all over the world, and to the farthest reaches of the known universe

It's Genetic *by Kyle Baker*

ALAN DAVIS ON EXCALIBUR™



How would you compare your previous work on X-MEN and THE NEW MUTANTS to what you're doing on EXCALIBUR?

I'd like to think that it's better because I'm trying to do something that will print well in the Graphic Novel format. But I don't think that there is any significant difference There's more of a difference in the way I've worked for English comics compared to American comics than in this. It's more that I'm trying to improve the quality because we've got the chance to have it printed well.

Because of the better printing for EXCALIBUR, do you feel that there is more pressure on you to do better art?

Yeah. I think that's the reason that I'm behind in the deadline at the moment. Most times the criticism in the forefront of my mind about comics is that what I've drawn doesn't print the way that I drew it. Some lines dropped out or some lines thickened up, some areas filled in I've always got a criticism that the job wasn't printed properly So when you get a chance - when you know that you've got all of the best technology behind you, then you have to try and make sure that you use that chance to its full advantage and to produce the work the way you've always liked it to be printed.

You mentioned working on English comics What is the biggest difference you've experienced between them and American comics?

With the American comics, and this is something that I'm still having to come to terms with, you have your work colored. You have to leave a certain amount of latitude for the colorist to work. And you also have to understand the way that the colorist can affect the work. When you're doing | British | black and white comics, the artist is the last person to control the mood and the form and the way that the artwork looks in general

The color job on any artwork can alter it almost 100%, to my eyes anyway

Basically, in British comics, it's the artist who puts in all this mod eling, all of the tones, all of the mood. In American comics, the colorist can set the mood in color, so 90% of the mood can come from the colorist.

Have you talked with either EXCALIBUR editor Ann Nocenti or the colorists to discuss how the coloring should go on EXCALIBUR?

Only in the broadest terms because, again, one of the things you have to learn when you're working in the super hero genre is that all the main characters have colored costumes. So that immediately restricts the layouts of panels. When you've got one character in blue, one in green, one in red, then there's only so many other colors that can be used

The only thing I've really contributed is sending in all the color sketches of the characters that I designed for the | British | CAPTAIN BRITAIN comic.

What about EXCALIBUR interests you the most?

I suppose that the bottom line would be working with characters that I've worked on in the past characters like Captain Britain and the various supporting cast. It's exciting to be able to draw them

for American comics. I had designed the new Captain Britain, and most of his supporting cast, for Marvel U.K. Incidentally, Paul Neary, the inker on EXCALIBUR, was the Editor in Chief of Marvel U.K. and was the guy who hired me to do CAPTAIN BRITAIN. He came up with the original concept for the revitalization of Captain Britain. So there is a bit of a historical thing here. Chris Claremont wrote the original Captain Britain, then Paul was the person who initiated the regeneration of Captain Britain and hired me to draw it.

The tone of EXCALIBUR is supposed to be different from THE X-MEN and THE NEW MUTANTS — lighter, more fun. Does that present any challenge to you?

I think that it seems to be that most people see that in my artwork anyway. So it's not something that I really have to consciously do. Most times I'm having to consciously turn that off — the more humorous aspect. But personally I like more light-hearted comics. I'm not really into the outright realism. But even though there's a lot of humor in EXCALIBUR, there's also a lot of drama.

With Chris in New York City and you in England, does the distance create a problem for working on EXCALIBUR?

I don't think so. We've gotten together in person on a number of occasions and we're only a phone call away should there be any problems. And I think that we're familiar with each other's work — me more so with Chris's since I've always been reading the X Men. So I'm familiar with the characters and the way that Chris works. So there's no more than the settling-in problems that a writer and an artist have at any time with a new series.

What character in EXCALIBUR do you find most interesting?

I don't think that I could really answer that in a straightforward way because one of the things that I do with any group of characters that I work on is try to get under the skin of every character so that I become so familiar with him or her, that they actually exist in my head when I'm drawing them — so that I'm not drawing just stock figures. And once that happens, I don't think you can have a favorite.

There are peculiar aspects of each character which are fun to draw. Like Nightcrawler's agility. His bounding around makes him fun in one way. And Kitty's walking through walls makes her more interesting in a more moody aspect. There are things like that which are fun to do. So I wouldn't say that there's one definite and favorite.

The setting of EXCALIBUR is in England. This must be easy for you, since you have all the visual reference you need just outside your door.

Actually that's not the case. Excalibur is in London. I've only been to London on very few occasions. I hate the place. I live out in the country. And where I live, it's more of a rural area. So going to London is a bit of a stressful experience for me. So in one respect, I might just as well draw New York, as London.

I think there will, however, always be the English perspective in the series. For instance, electrical plugs look different, telephone poles look different, desks look different. So there is all that general background stuff that's going to be there, anyway.

Is the direction for the adventures in EXCALIBUR pretty well defined, or will the series have more of an "anything goes" feel?

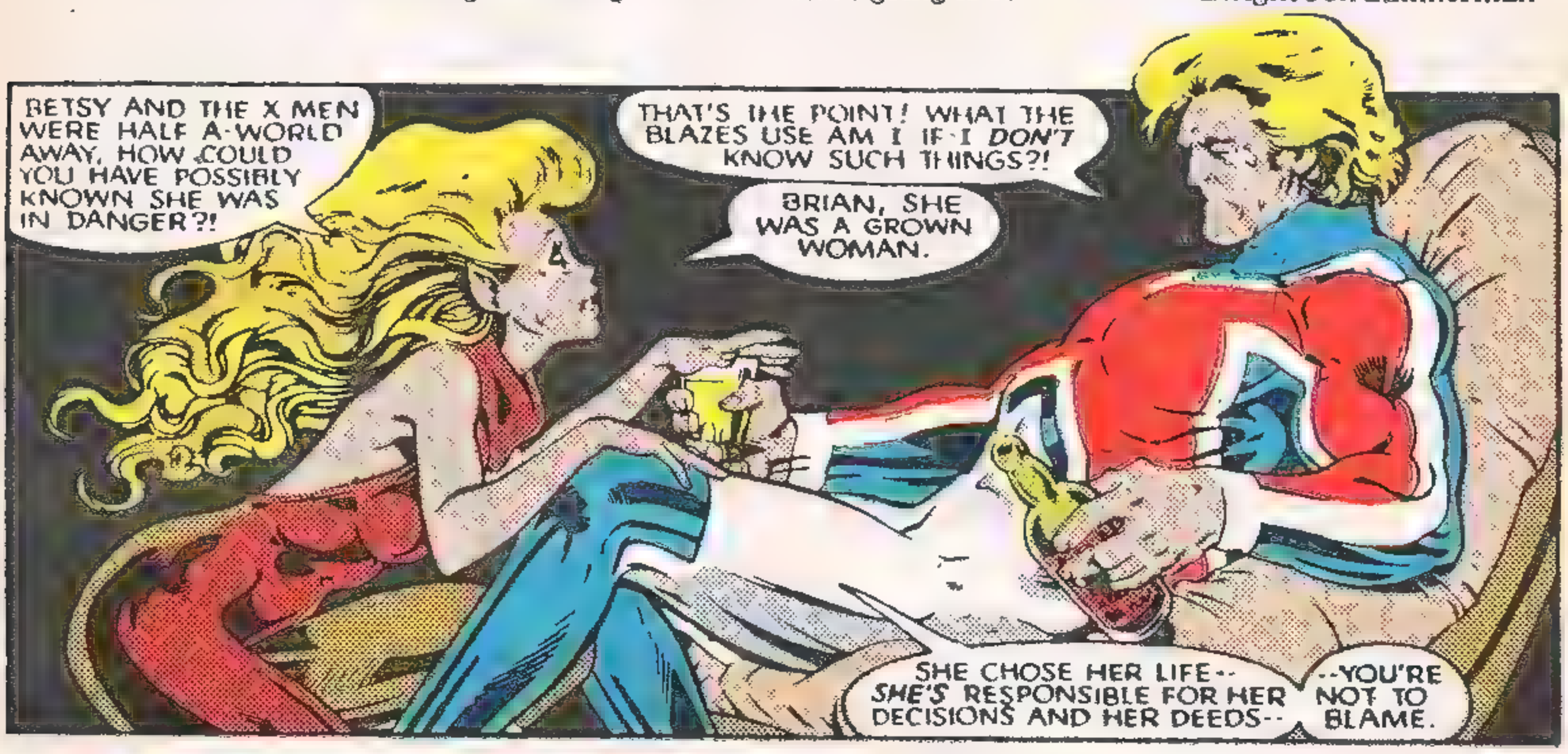
I prefer the "anything goes" approach. I really don't like to have preconceived ideas. It should always be flexible. Anything should be able to happen.

Since some of the members of Excalibur are from the X-Men and the New Mutants, how would you tell a person who is tempted to dismiss EXCALIBUR as "just another mutant book" that EXCALIBUR is different and something that he or she should see?

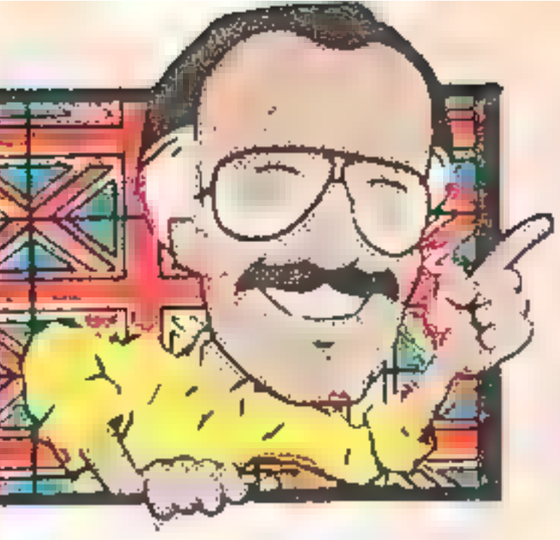
That's pretty difficult. I mean, on one level, all super hero books are very similar.

The main difference in EXCALIBUR will be mood. There is a sort of tongue-in-cheek aspect of it. It's also much more — not silly, but in a peculiar way, we take the adventures one degree further into the absurd. Things that happen with Excalibur couldn't really happen with the X-Men, even though some of the same characters are the same. It's really a case of taking the same characters and placing them in a much more interesting and different setting. Like, Nightcrawler is a great character in his own right. Why should you change him? It doesn't matter whether Nightcrawler is in the X-Men, or if he were to join the Fantastic Four, or the Avengers, or whatever. He'll always be Nightcrawler. But because he's with different characters, in a different group, he's going to act in a different way. As will Kitty, as will Captain Britain, and the others.

- *Dwight Jon Zimmerman*


BETSY AND THE X MEN WERE HALF A-WORLD AWAY. HOW COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY KNOWN SHE WAS IN DANGER?!
THAT'S THE POINT! WHAT THE BLAZES USE AM I IF I *DON'T* KNOW SUCH THINGS?!
BRIAN, SHE WAS A GROWN WOMAN.
SHE CHOSE HER LIFE-- *SHE'S* RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DECISIONS AND HER DEEDS--
--YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME.

STAN'S SOAPBOX



Can you think of anything worse than being face-to-face with a powerful super-villain? If you can't, I'll give you a clue. In fact, why waste time with a clue? I'll give you the whole cotton-pickin' answer . . !

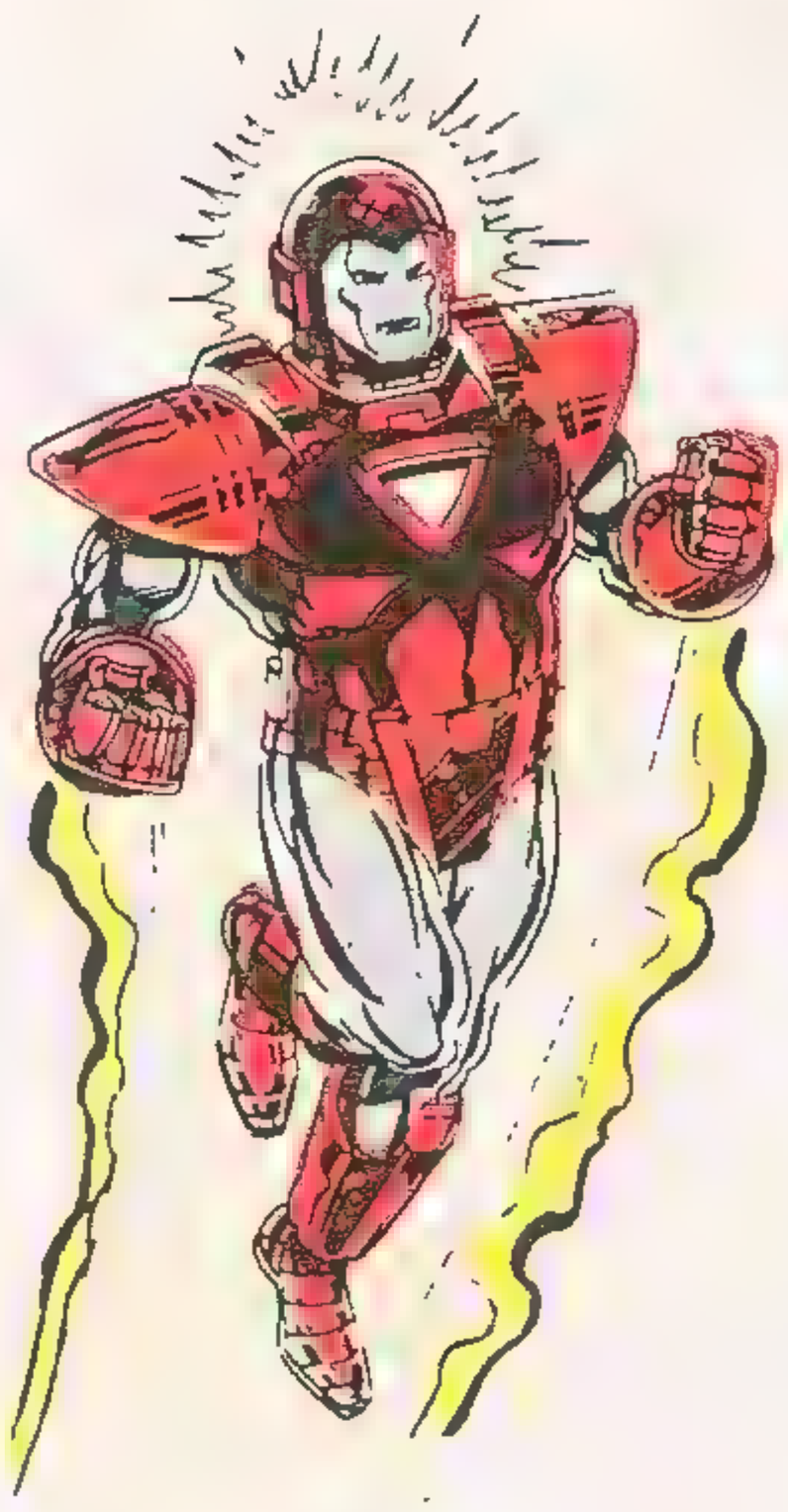
One thing that's as bad or worse than having to face a super-villain is — having to face a blank computer screen without an idea in your head, knowing you've got to have your Soapbox column finished in a couple of hours or else it'll miss the deadline and MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE will be printed without it!

Of course, much as I'd hate to have a full month go by without seeing my name in print, I could live with it. But what I *can't* live with is the thought of you being deprived of these mellifluous words for a whole thirty days! You see, when I was much younger, nobody ever wrote a Soapbox column for *me* to read! So I know how terrible it is to do without it. I mean, I've been there! My generous heart nearly breaks when I think that somewhere in this strange and savage world of ours, there actually may be some poor unfortunates who don't have a Soapbox column to look forward to each month!

But be not faint of heart, Believer, I shall not let thee down. This column *will* be written! Western literature and civilization as we know it shall not be allowed to perish from this Earth!

As a matter of fact, we're in luck. I just realized that I do have an announcement of staggering significance for each and every one of you! Remember last ish! Remember us talking about the fact that our Iron Man poll turned out to be a tie, with half of you Marvel madmen wanting ol' Shellhead to be in a movie while the other half wanted him to be a TV star?

Well, here's what happened. A few additional letters arrived kind of late at our studio. (*Kind* of late? Sheesh, they must a been sent by Pony Express!) After adding their votes to the ones we already had and then tallying up the whole megillah, we found we had



about a dozen more votes for Iron Man to become a major motion picture than for him to be the titan of TV!

So, if you're one of those who think that your votes don't count, now you know it just ain't so! For, even as you read these stentorian sentences, the actual screenplay is now being written for Tony Stark's first starring role — to be produced as a live-action, major motion picture for the big screen by those fearless folks at good ol' New World!

Hey, I just thought of something else. (No mean feat, right?) Did you know that the Spider-Man newspaper strip is now ten years old? It seems like only yesterday that I wrote the first story. Of course, at my age, it seems like only yesterday that we were entertaining the public by scratching our comic strips on the walls of caves!

But leave me not digress. Let's put all frivolity aside while I make a some what Earth-shattering announcement, although you've probably already guessed what it is! That's right — your chance to win another deluxe, one-of-a-kind, suitable for framing No-Prize! All you need in order to become the proud possessor of our very latest model is a good memory. Starting immediately, we'll award a non-tarnishing, non-alcoholic, non-existent No-Prize to anyone and everyone who can tell us the date when the popular Spider-Man newspaper comic strip first appeared in the papers! And here's a generous hint from big-hearted me — it was more than five years ago, but less than fifteen years ago! There! I practically pin-pointed it to the exact second for you! Anyway, just address your contest entries to Editor **Stim-Jim Salicrup**, at Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. Might as well let *him* get writers cramp, sending congratulatory letters to all our lucky winners!

By the way, December will be a great month for all you videocassette freaks. New World Video is bringing you the long-awaited release of HOUSE II: THE SECOND STORY. It stars (as if you didn't know!) **Arye Gross**, **Jonathan Stark**, **Royal Dano**, **Bill Maher**, **Lar Park Lincoln**, and **John Ratzenberger** who plays **Cliff** on CHEERS. It's the spine-tingling story of a young artist who inherits a mysterious house with hidden rooms where strange creatures roam. (Of course, calling these monstrosities "strange creatures" is like calling The Hulk a husky person.) Then, just for some extra kicks, our hero is tossed into a life and death struggle over a crystal skull — but this isn't your ordinary, dime-a-dozen crystal skull! This one has magical life-restoring powers. And that's just for starters!

Also coming from those friendly folk at New World is CITY OF SHADOWS. It's set in a decaying inner city police precinct, and features a bizarre psychological experiment that pits the forces of good and the forces of evil

against each other — which makes for a lot more action than having 'em join forces! Two brothers who were separated at birth are brought together through a series of kidnapings and murders, which, if you ask me, is doing it the hard way! One of 'em is a cop, the other is his suspect! And, just for kicks, the evil mastermind behind the whole thing drives them both to the brink of madness during their bitter death struggle. You say you want still more? Okay, we aim to please. The music is by **Tangerine Dream**!

And now, just when you thought it was safe to keep reading these Soapboxes, I've got another scoop for you! I'll admit it isn't exactly in the same league as "World Destroys all Nuclear Weapons!" or "Cure Found for Acne!" but it'll still warm the cockles of any True Believer's heart. Now get a good grip on yourself and make sure you're sitting down, because here it comes . . .

New World Pictures has officially changed its name!

Yep, you heard it right! Those fantastic folk at New World, who were sagacious enough to buy Marvel Comics and help us plunge head-first into show biz, have decided that the word "Pictures" is too confining since they also produce television shows, video cassettes and a heap of other stuff which I'll tell you about in some later column. (After all, a guy's gotta save something for the next time he's looking at that blank screen without an idea in his head, right?)

Anyway, after a lot of soul-searching and heavy study, which probably took at least a couple of minutes, they came up with the word "Entertainment" as a replacement for "Pictures." Therefore, be it known by all and sundry, from this moment on, to the farthest reaches of the fabled realm, those fabulous folk at New World are now

part of the vast, galaxy-spanning conglomerate which is now and shall be forever, NEW WORLD ENTERTAINMENT!

But to be perfectly serious (being serious is hard enough, but perfectly serious? Hey, now you've gotta *know* I'm not kidding), I can't think of anything more fitting than Marvel Comics being a part of New World Entertainment. It's like **Spidey** and **Mary Jane** — a marriage made in heaven!

Well, it's that time again. I hate to leave you, but if I must, let me leave you with another bulletin . .

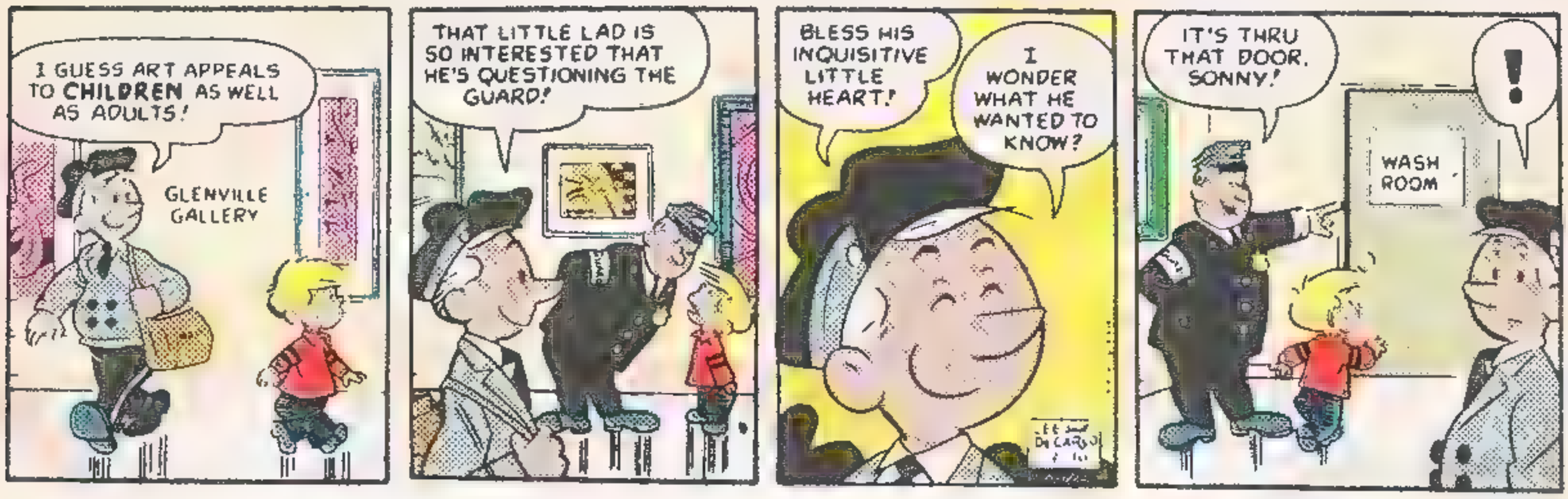
Wouldja believe that at this very moment New World is planning to bring a full *dozen* of your favorite Marvel heroes (and villains) to the big screen?!! I've already told you about some of these projects in previous Soapboxes, and I'll tell you more about the others in future columns. After all, you're not only the greatest readers in the world, but we're gonna make sure you're the best-informed also!

So once again, here I sit facing a blank screen on my trustworthy little computer, wondering how to close this titillating tome. And, as I wonder, weak and weary, over this quaint and curious column of forgotten lore (forgive me, **Edgar Allen**), I realize I can always fall back upon that one tried-and-true invocation that works in every situation. So, without any further ado (since I've already used my entire supply), let me admonish you never to trample on a turnip, and wherever you go, whatever you do — Think Marvel!

Excelsior!

Stan

WILLIE LUMPKIN *© 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo*


I GUESS ART APPEALS TO CHILDREN AS WELL AS ADULTS!
GLENVILLE GALLERY
THAT LITTLE LAD IS SO INTERESTED THAT HE'S QUESTIONING THE GUARD!
BLESS HIS INQUISITIVE LITTLE HEART!
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW?
IT'S THRU THAT DOOR, SONNY!
!
WASH ROOM

ONE EVENING, IN THE MODEST APARTMENT BROTHER VOODOO SHARES WITH HIS SIBLING, SISTER VOODOO AND HER BABY, VOODOO CHILE...
Whew! I FINALLY MANAGED TO SING VOODOO CHILE TO SLEEP--MUST'VE DONE "PURPLE HAZE" A DOZEN TIMES...
YOU WATCHING MARVEL TELEVISION?
uh huh.

THEY'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE RENOWNED BRITISH IMPORTS COMING UP NEXT...

...STAY TUNED FOR "MASTERPIECE THEATRE FEATURING THE BEST OF BENNY HILL," BUT FIRST, THIS MARVEL COMICS NEWS BRIEF WITH FRED HEMBECK...

ALL I'VE GOTTA DO, SIS, IS CHANGE MY NAME TO CAPTAIN HAITI, INGRATIATE MYSELF INTO THE LIVES OF A COUPLE OF MUTANTS, AND THEN, BINGO! I'LL BE BACK IN A REGULAR SERIES!!
OH, SURE...

MAYBE YOU COULD TEAM UP WITH THE BLOB AND THE TOAD. THEN YOU COULD CALL YOURSELVES THE REJEX!!

aw...
BE TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE, BRO BEING BROTHER VOODOO MAY NOT MEAN MUCH! THIS YEAR, BUT YOUR TIME WILL COME--TRUST ME!

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. ANYBODY OUT THERE REMEMBER CAPTAIN BRITAIN?..
CAPTAIN BRITAIN?
hah!
HE'S EVEN MORE OBSCURE THAN I AM! WHY, HE--
WELL, MARVEL COMICS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE'LL ANCHOR A NEW UNLIMITED SERIES SET IN THE U.K. TO BE CALLED EXCALIBUR, COMING OUT SOON.
..BUT... ..BUT... ..BUT...
...HE'S EVEN MORE OBSCURE THAN I AM?!...
...JOINING THE BRITISH BATTLER WILL BE NIGHTCRAWLER, KITTY PRYDE, AND SEVERAL OTHER CHARACTERS FAMILIAR TO X-MEN FANS. IN ADDITION, NEW FACES WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED.
HAH!
PALLING AROUND WITH MUTANTS-- OF COURSE!!
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT??..
OH, LOOK!--IT'S THE ONE WHERE THEY'RE AT THE LONG DINING TABLE AND THE OLIVE ESCAPES BENNY'S SPOON AND ROLLS ALL THE WAY DOWN TO WHERE THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN IN THE LOW CUT DRESS IS SITTING!!
mmm.
HA HA! I REALLY LOVE THAT BIT!!
I KNOW...
...WHY DO YOU THINK I NEVER SERVE PEAS FOR DINNER AROUND HERE?..

SLEDGE HAMMER!™

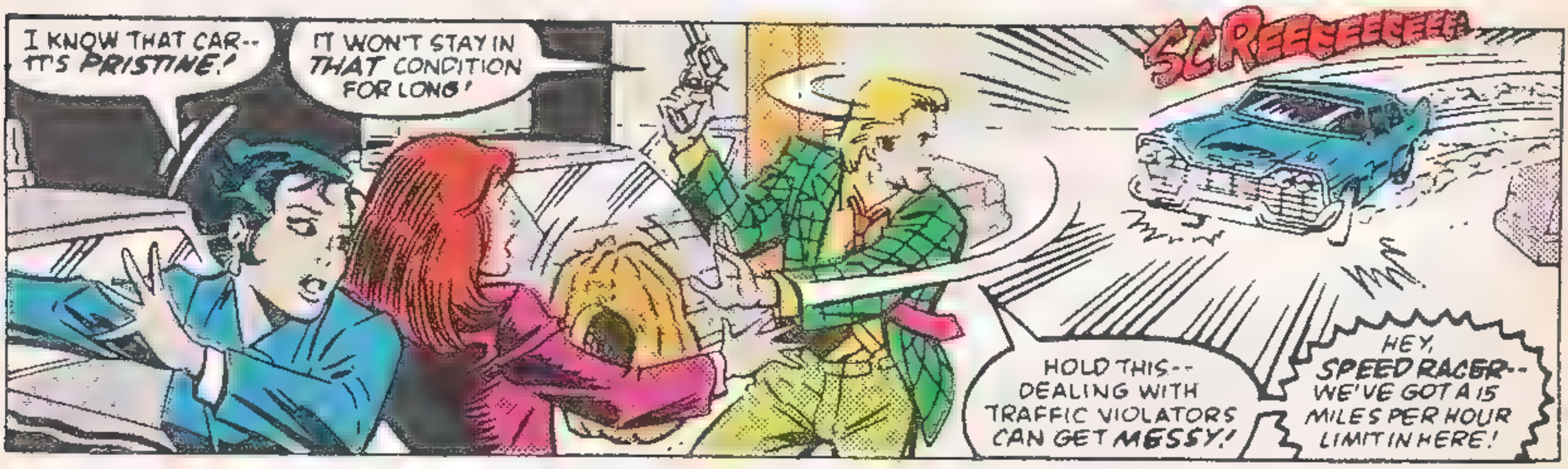
SLEDGE HAMMER!
The name sounds familiar
SLEDGE HAMMER!
Oh, yeah, wasn't that a TV show on Friday nights?
SLEDGE HAMMER!
He'd its own against "Miami Vice and "Dallas," too. Not bad!
SLEDGE HAMMER!
I hear he's going against **Cosby** this season. That takes guts.
SLEDGE HAMMER!
What's that? A new Marvel comic?
SLEDGE HAMMER!

Written by **Jim Salicrup**, pencilled by **Alex Saviuk** and inked by **Sam de la Rosa**? Tell me more!

For those unenlightened few who somehow have missed the sensation known as **Sledge Hammer**, Sledge is a member of the San Francisco Police Force. He's not, however, your average cop. He's got a unique way of approaching police work. He shoots first and considers the consequences later. Yet his unconventional style gets results — and how! Assisted by the lovely **Dori Doreau** and harassed by his irascible boss, **Captain Trunk**, Hammer fights crime as only he can — with maximum violence and maximum humor. And now Sledge fans and Sledge neophytes alike can thrill to his adventures in his very own Marvel comic book!

Of course, the idea of a Sledge Hammer comic book was a natural. The Sledge Hammer television show is a production of New World Television. As everyone in the know knows, Marvel Comics is a subsidiary of the selfsame New World Entertainment. Just as New World is working to bring Marvel characters to the screen, it seemed logical for Marvel to bring Sledge Hammer to the comic book page, as well as give his diehard fans yet another medium in which to laugh along with their favorite flatfoot.

Jim Salicrup, best known in these pages as editor of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, has been a fixture at Marvel for over half his life. Starting as a messenger at fifteen, he worked his way up to his present exalted position as editor of the **Spider-Man** titles. His writing credits include A-TEAM, VISIONARIES, TRANSFORMERS, KOOL-AID MAN, SPIDEY SUPER


I KNOW THAT CAR-- IT'S PRISTINE!
IT WON'T STAY IN THAT CONDITION FOR LONG!
SCREEEEEEEEE!
HOLD THIS-- DEALING WITH TRAFFIC VIOLATORS CAN GET MESSY!
HEY, SPEED RACER-- WE'VE GOT A 15 MILES PER HOUR LIMIT IN HERE!

STORIES, and the Spider-Man child abuse comic. As an editor he worked on every book from **Avengers** to **X-Men** (and if Marvel published books beginning with a Y and a Z, he'd probably have edited them as well)!

Jim sees Sledge Hammer as being in the same vein as "Get Smart." Just as the wacky adventures of **Agent 86** parodied the cloak and dagger genre of films popular in the 1960's, the adventures of Sledge are a takeoff of the action adventure films currently in fashion.

Sledge's character is deceptive," Jim told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. "He seems stupid, but he has his own strange kind of logic." Jim sees the Sledge Hammer concept as being a mixture of violence and stupidity, but expressed cleverly. "I throw in some violent gags, some stupid gags, and some clever gags and hope for the best," he cracked. He claimed that he is trying to write the series in the grand comic tradition of NOT BRAND ECCH and the early issues of MAD.

Assisting Jim in this laudable endeavor is penciler Alex Saviuk. Alex was no stranger to Jim. The two have worked together on the Spider-Man books on which Alex is one of the regular artists. Jim was very impressed with Alex's work and had asked Alex to work with him on the series. But Jim was not the only one to recognize the possibility of Alex doing SLEDGE HAMMER!. **Don Daley**, editor of the title also approached Alex about handling the artist chores. Under this double onslaught, what could Alex do but agree? And he couldn't be happier!

Alex started working at Marvel last February when he did a fill-in **Iron Man** story for **Howard Mackie**. This led to more work, including several covers DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH, NIGHTMASK, STAR BRAND (with **Jim Shooter**), CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS and SPIDER-MAN. His first issue of Spider-Man was done under extreme deadline pressure. The professionalism he showed in handling the asignment, as well as the high quality of the job, led to his becoming one of the regular Spider-artists.

Alex is happy to be working with Jim and is proud of the work they are producing. "It's better than some of the television episodes," he told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. SLEDGE HAMMER! is only scheduled for a two-issue run, but both Jim and Alex are confident that reader response will warrant extending the run indefinitely, and with the work these two guys are generating, who's to say no?

Sledge, in his first issue will be encountering every horror movie villain you can think of, as he protects **Stephanie King**, a.k.a. **Satana Knight**, the host of a late night horror movie show. Sure, Stephanie's beautiful and popular, but someone's out to kill her. And he or she will probably do it if Sledge doesn't foil the plot. It's up to Sledge and Dori to find out who's behind all the weird goings on in "Creephouse." Issue #2 will feature a takeoff of the motion picture, *Lethal Weapon*.

Jim is excited about SLEDGE HAMMER! He has long felt that there's a market for different kinds of comics and enjoys the humor and action in this new title. And you will, too! Pick up an issue of SLEDGE HAMMER! (on sale now) and join the fun.

–Sandy Hausler, J.D.

MARVEL
SLEDGE HAMMER!
TRUST ME, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
1ST COLLECTOR'S ITEM ISSUE! BASED ON THE TV SHOW THAT REFUSES TO DIE!
GUEST STARRING SATANA!!
CREEPHOUSE!

SLEDGE HAMMER! TM and © 1987 NWT Productions, Inc.

The New Fantastic Four®

The year: 1961. The characters **Reed Richards. Ben Grimm. Susan Storm. Johnny Storm** The art of comic book storytelling changed dramatically and the Marvel Age of Comics was born

The year: 1987. The characters: **Ben Grimm**, **Johnny Storm**, **Crystal**, **Ms. Marvel**. The times, they are a'changing, but the excitement keeps going strong! Writer **Steve Englehart** has totally shaken up the cast and plot line in the FANTASTIC FOUR, resulting in a whole new look, feel, and energy. But those elements that have identified the FF over the years have remained, namely an atmosphere of friendship and family connections, and a cosmic scope wherein anything can happen

"I wanted to get back to the feeling of the old **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** epics where everything changed regularly," said Steve. "But I didn't want to replicate those classic stories and rehash the same characters, conflicts, villains, and situations. During their most amazing period, the FF ran into **the Inhumans**, followed by **the Silver Surfer**, **Galactus**, **the Black Panther** — there was something new happening, something changing, all the time."

The original premise of the series concerned normal people caught up in circumstances beyond their control The Fantastic Four was the genesis of the whole Marvel concept, a concept wherein heroes were real people with real problems. Rather than redo Reed, Sue, Ben, and Johnny fighting battle after battle together, with 25 years behind them Steve thought it was time to try to shake the premise up

A lot of people missed that old energy, that feeling of change," explained Steve. "Now they want to know where Reed and Sue are. As we go further with my plans, I think people will get caught up in the new energy. I'm trying to instill in the characters that they're living in a world they don't totally understand."

In case anyone missed the initial stories since the changing of the team, Reed (Mr. Fantastic) and Sue (Invisible Woman) have left the team to concentrate on raising their young son **Franklin** for awhile. Ben (Thing) Grimm took over as leader, setting out to fill the two openings left by the Richards' departure. The first new member was Crystal, formerly of the Inhumans. She recently separated from her husband, **Quicksilver**, and decided that working with the FF again

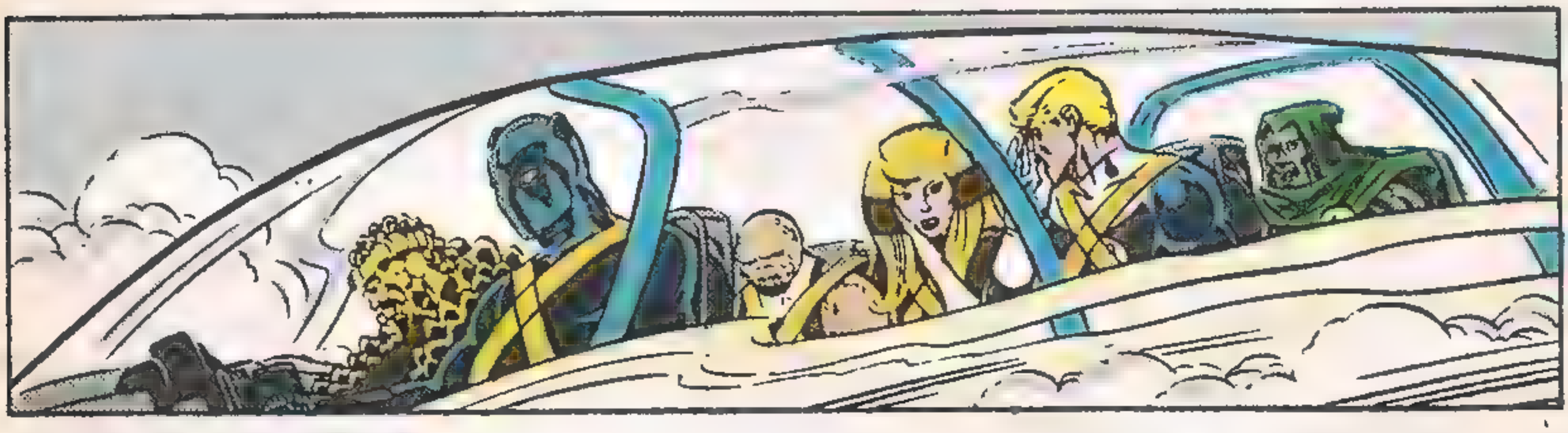
would be a good way to get her mind off her troubles. She also happens to be the former girlfriend of teammate and newlywed Johnny (Human Torch) Storm. The final member was Ms. Marvel, a female super-power-class wrestler Ben met during his solo days. She bears more than a small resemblance to the woman Ben fell in love with on the Secret Wars planet. Now the team is trying to mesh these conflicting personalities into a new FF.

"It's tough to be as revolutionary as the original tales," said Steve. "Lee and Kirby were geniuses, creating the Marvel Universe as they went along. All of their creations would stand on their own even if they debuted today, but back then — wow! It's possible to create stories and chracters that wonderful even today, but certainly back then it was fresh and original. There was nothing like the Fantastic Four ever before, and each issue was better and more surprising than the last That kind of energy is the key."

How did they decide on the new members of the team? Steve was looking for characters who would make the team different, but he didn't want to turn the FF into the Avengers. "I write both books, but the FF has a different slant. The truth is, anybody can be an Avenger. If you're a good hero and you can follow a couple of basic rules, you can join the Avengers. But the Fantastic Four is more family oriented. They've always been a tight-knit group of friends. I wanted to change the cast, but I had to keep that sense of family or it wouldn't work," said Steve.

Reed Richards, through various writers, has been saying for a long time that he was going to become a good father and pay more attention to his son. Steve decided, when he came on the series, that it was time for that to happen. "For this to make sense, Reed would have to leave. And Sue would have to go with him because they're a very solid couple," Steve explained. "The idea of Reed and Sue leaving to take care of Franklin fit my purposes, but also fit the direction the characters had been going. I also liked the idea of the Thing finally getting to lead the group. He's been the solid second banana all this time, so he deserved a shot at it." These are actual changes, not simply the illusion of change. Yet, at the same time, Steve feels these changes don't violate the cohesive nature of the team.

Steve kept the Thing because he



grew to like the character when he had him in WEST COAST AVENGERS for a few issues. Johnny Storm had to remain because the Johnny-Alicia-Ben situation intrigued him. "Could I make Ben mean? Grumpy, sure, but really mean? Here he is, in an intolerable situation where his ex-girl has married his best friend, and it has to affect him, I figured, if I can't do this, if I can't actually make this guy mad about this, then the plot doesn't make sense. It's difficult to make the Thing unlikable, and yet that's what he kept saying he was going to be. It's just like Reed saying he's going to be a better father but never proving it. Can we 'progress' these characters, stretch them beyond their limits, and not change what they've been for 25 years? I decided I can't stop this progression. I had to bite the bullet and see where the plot takes me," said Steve.

So that's why he let Reed and Sue go, and why he let Ben and Johnny remain. But how did he choose Crystal and Ms. Marvel to round out the team? "I had two slots open. I had the Ben-Johnny-Alicia thing which needed to be explored. One way to do that would be to bring back an old flame of Johnny's, Crystal," explained Steve. "Crystal is quite certain that she isn't there to mess up Johnny Storm's marriage, but Alicia isn't quite sure of that. We'll see over the coming months that Johnny and Crystal can't be quite sure either. The other part of this equation is Ben. It's fine to say he's really mad over the situation, but what does he do about it? I brought in Ms. Marvel because Ben likes her, even if she has little use for him in the same way."

By looking at it from characters and by trying to establish situations that would cause uncertainty and change, Steve ended up with the current FF cast. "We considered the Black Panther, **Medusa**, **Luke Cage**, and others, but none of them would have added anything particular to the drama of the situation." The Panther, however, is going to become an almost fifth member of the team for awhile.

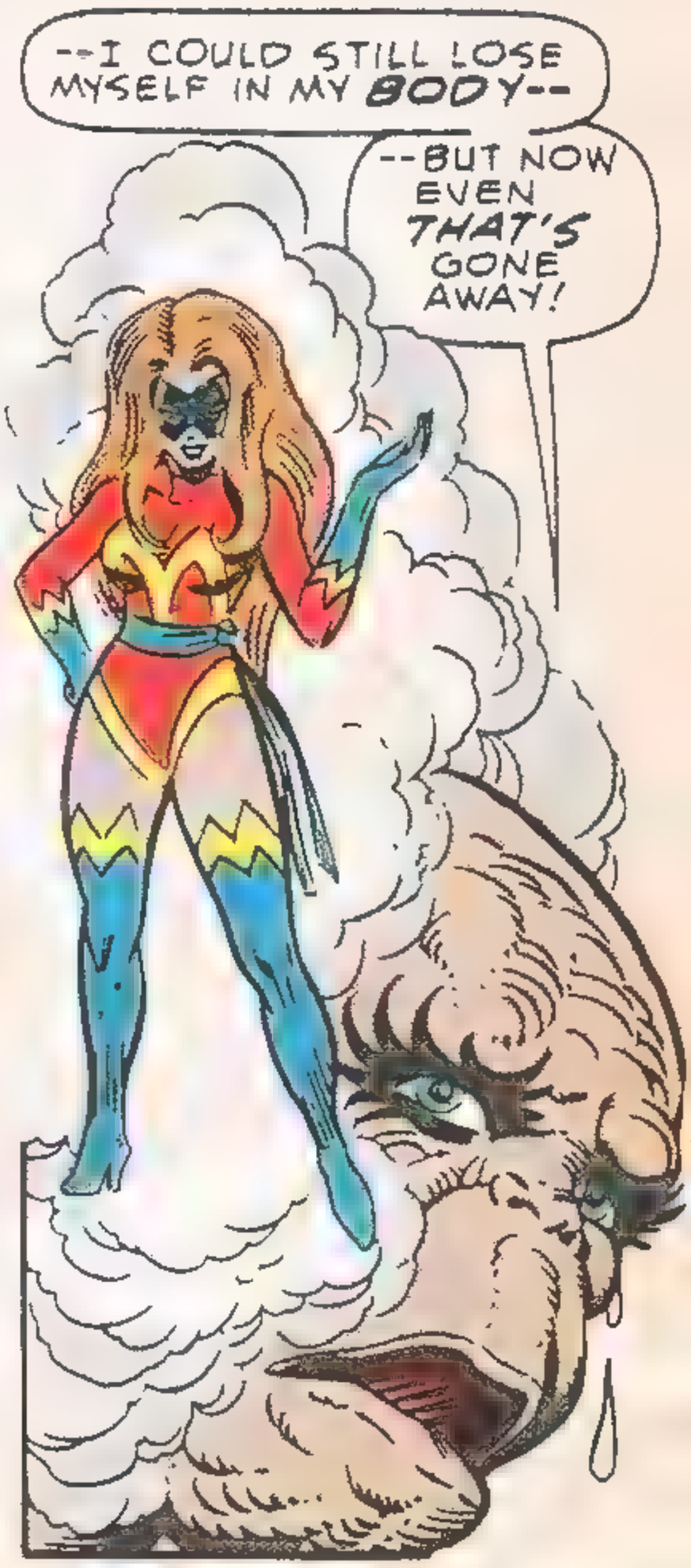
The Thing continues to be Steve's favorite character on the team, "especially now that he's mutated. He may never turn back. Ms. Marvel is fun because she doesn't appear to be cutting it. She's interesting in her failures. Crystal fits into my overall plans nicely and we'll get to see more of her in the months ahead. Johnny has been busy settling in with his new wife, but he'll move to center stage shortly. I really like this new team and I'm having fun establishing them."

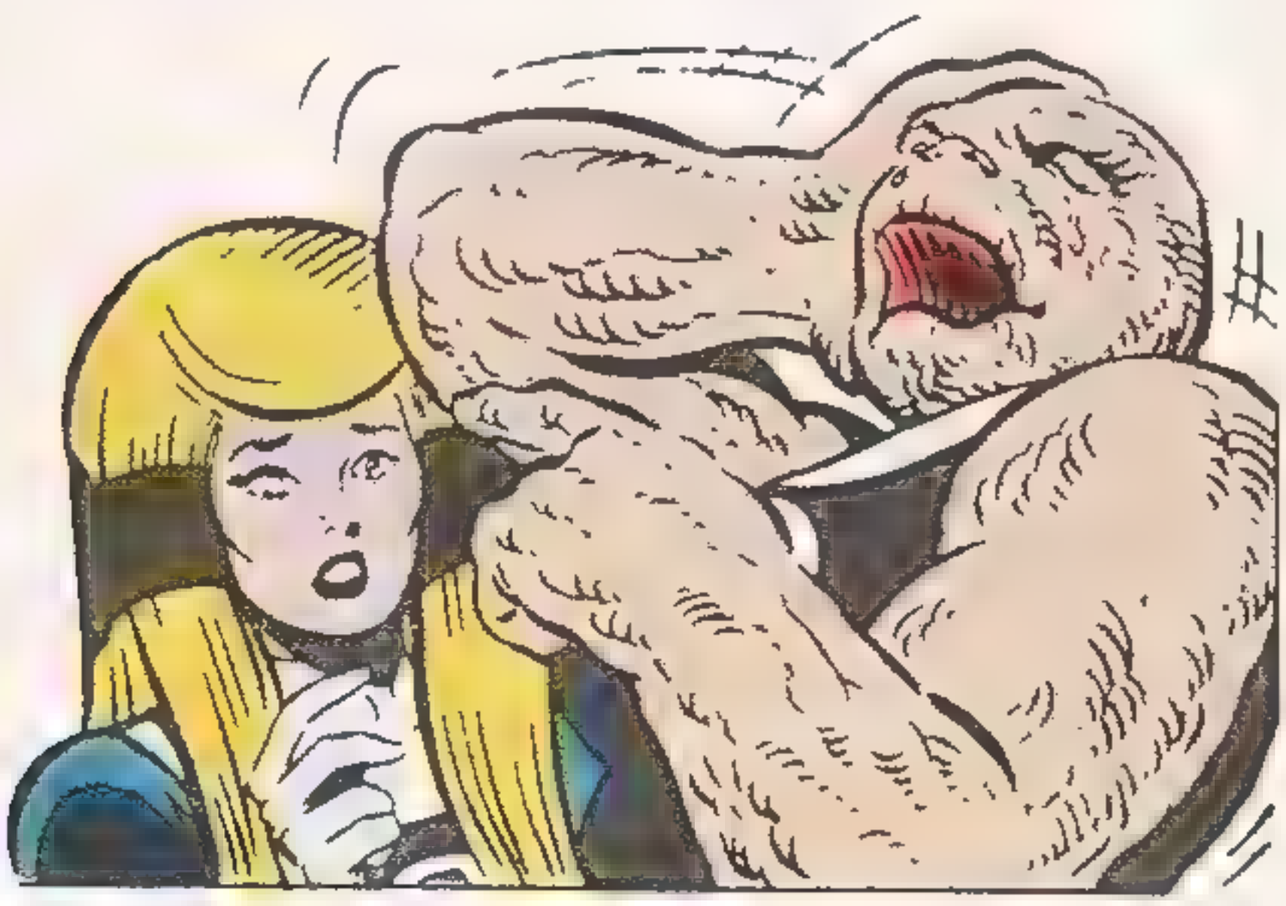
So what's in store for this new Fantastic Four in the months ahead? "Reed, Sue, and Franklin are gone for awhile. They will certainly be back, but they won't be back all that soon," explained Steve. "I have a long-term plan for all of the plots we've introduced in the first few issues. I know where the whole thing is going and when it gets there, certainly Reed and Sue will be involved. It's going to be pretty earth-shaking when we play out all this stuff to its high point. Along the way we'll deal with Ben and Ms. Marvel's mutations, the Black Panther, **Dr. Doom**, **the Mole Man**, and then finally out into space.

"Doom's war to reconquer Latveria will be checked on from time to time. Over the next year, both Doom and the usurper, **Kristoff**, will be seeking help in their battle. They'll gather two massive groups of super-powered beings including, among others, **Ultron**. And Ben's quest to undo the mutations, leads to a cosmic encounter with **the Molecule Man** and perhaps the Silver Surfer."

The new Fantastic Four. A new team, new problems, new energy, but the same old Marvel action and excitement.

—*Bill Slavicsek*





ALF™

— It Hurts, But It's Worth It!"

ALF TM and ·, 1987 Alien Productions

Even the doctor was laughing. As I looked around the room from my position on the operating table, glancing at the rest of the medical staff attempting to muffle their unprofessional giggles behind their surgical masks, I took a moment to remember how I'd gotten there . . .

Oddly enough, it began as my second assignment for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. From the start I knew it would be dangerous.

"They're launching a brand new series over at Star Comics," explained my editor **Jim Salicrup**. Because he was talking in hushed whispers, and the echo that cloaked his voice indicated he was phoning me from underneath his desk to insure privacy, I realized immediately that this was more than just another story — more than just another comic book.

"It's so big that nobody will give us a lead. The first issue hits the stands in early December, and you know what that means."

Sure I knew. It meant that the people at Star were planning to release this mystery book in time for Christmas and Chanukah. It meant they were going out of their way to be nice, and nice always makes me suspicious.

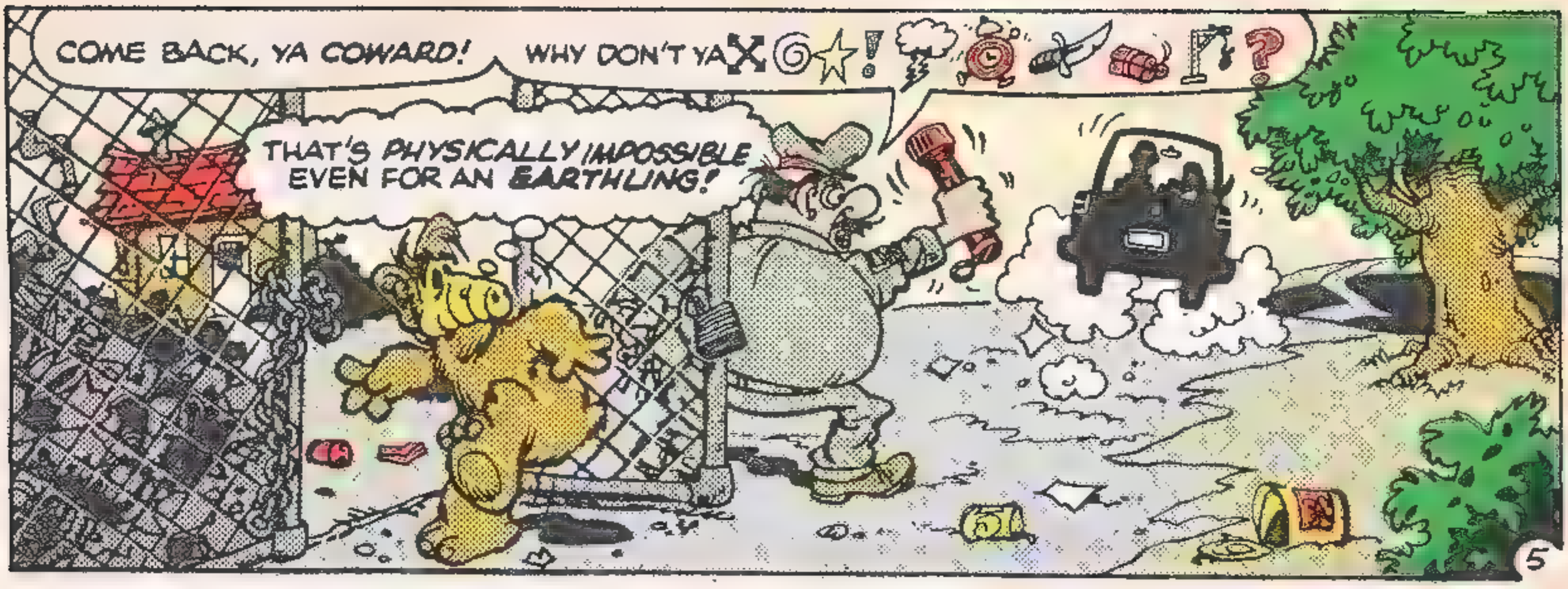
After getting what few details were available, I weighed my options. Should I try to slip into the Star offices wearing my **Top Dog** costume? Maybe I should claim I was a descendant of one of **the Flintstone Kids**? No. I finally decided I'd have to take the direct approach.

The moment I stepped from the elevator on the 11th floor of 387 Park Avenue South, directly into the reception area of Marvel Comics, I immediately understood that whatever new project Star was planning, it was having an effect on everyone in the comics industry. Sure the receptionist smiled at me as she does to everyone, but today it was more than that. Today she was hiding something behind the smile, something I could see in her eyes. That something was laughter.

Waiting outside the Star office, I went over the few notes I had on the story. The book was a tie-in with a popular television show, in fact one of the hottest shows in recent television history. What's more, Star had their top talent working on this latest book. **Michael Gallagher** would handle the writing. **Dave Manak** would do the penciling, with **Marie Severin** polishing the job with her distinctive inks. Producing three stories per book, it was apparent that these major talents would be working overtime to insure this book would be something different before it even hit the stands.

I was greeted by assistant editor **Laura Hitchcock**. Sure she was her usual effervescent self, genuinely attempting to make me feel comfortable and at ease (Maybe too comfortable, too at ease, I thought), but there was a look in her eyes. She looked happy enough, giggling openly, but she was obviously exhausted. Almost as if, in some strange, inexplicable way, she was tired of laughing.

Walking down the halls of Marvel something was drastically different. The aisles were empty, the bullpen all but abandoned, and gales of laughter roared from behind closed doors.



Passing by the throne room, I spied an unnamed editor in chief howling with laughter, clutching his sides, apparently in pain. It was then I knew I would get to the bottom of this no matter what

As the door to Star's Executive Editor's office closed behind me, only partially drowning out the sounds of an entire office crippled by uncontrollable laughter, I sat facing the man at least partially responsible for it all. Dispensing with the niceties, I asked editor **Sid Jacobson** to level with me

The man with the perpetual twinkle in his eye, a sign of his affection for the comics industry in which he's worked since the invention of the printing press, took a moment to stare out over the unsuspecting city below

"I want you to know, **Scott**," he began "When we started this project, none of us expected it would come to this. Sure we intended it to be funny, but no one suspected it would be *this* funny. But now I realize it's bigger than me. It's bigger than all of us " Then he summed it up in a single word. "**ALF**!"

ALF!

I should have guessed, all the clues were there! ALF was NBC's surprise hit of the Spring 1987 season The adventures of this aggressive, occasionally abrasive alien who crash-lands on Earth, only to be befriended by the **Tanner** family, had quickly risen to the top of the ratings with its outrageously funny scripts and upbeat social commentary so rarely found in prime time television. NBC took pride in the reluctant visitor from the planet Melmac who had a lot to teach us about what it means to be human. (Of course, you know all this because you no doubt watch the show)

Once we'd broached the topic, the rest of the story came easy. I learned the aforementioned three stories per issue would involve two stories revolving around ALF's adventures on Earth Also, each issue we will be treated to a story that takes place on his home planet. This means we get to see his family, his friends, his neighbors! We get to see ALF long before his ship landed on Earth . . . long before he became the celebrity to adorn everything from T-shirts, to lunch boxes, to action figures

Then the moment arrived. As a reporter, it was my job to look at the original artwork, breeze through a few scripts. To his credit, Mr. Jacobson tried to talk me out of it. From the brief glimpse of the first issue that had leaked from his office, the staff at Marvel Comics was ground to a halt with laughter. If I looked at the full story, there was no guarantee of my safety. I explained that as a reporter, there are no guarantees.

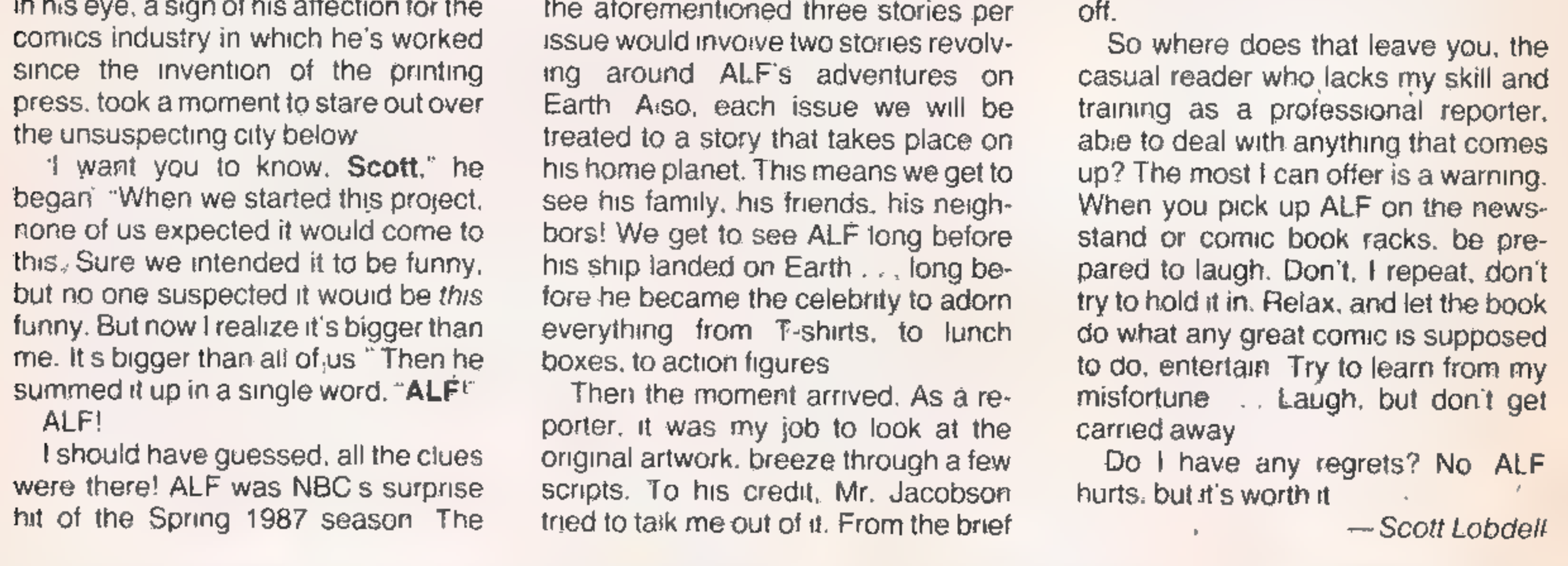
He handed me the book . . .

Now, here I sit, typing this article from my hospital bed. As it turned out, Sid was right. I had hurt my self laughing. I bruised my funny bone, slapped my knee, split a gut. If not for the actions of a quick-thinking assistant editor, I would have laughed my head off.

So where does that leave you, the casual reader who lacks my skill and training as a professional reporter, able to deal with anything that comes up? The most I can offer is a warning. When you pick up ALF on the newsstand or comic book racks, be prepared to laugh. Don't, I repeat, don't try to hold it in. Relax, and let the book do what any great comic is supposed to do, entertain Try to learn from my misfortune . . Laugh, but don't get carried away

Do I have any regrets? No ALF hurts, but it's worth it

—Scott Lobdell


BESIDES... THE ALFSTER BROUGHT PRESENTS!
FOR LYNN...A BICYCLE CHAIN NECKLACE!
SERVE, BRIAN, HA!
FOR MY GOOMBA, AN ALMOST NEW NEHRU JACKET!
AND KATE... HERE'S JUST THE THING FOR THOSE DISHPAN HANDS!
GIVE ME THE KEYS...I'M TAKING HIM BACK TO THE DUMP!
9
THE END

NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

One of the best ways for young, talented artists to obtain a career at Marvel is to start as "Raiders" in the bullpen's art department. The Raiders perform art corrections from anything as simple as adding a few extra lines to re-drawing entire panels while maintaining the original artist's style.

Christopher Ivy is Marvel's newest Raider. He is 24 years old and received his bachelor's degree in art from Parsons School of Design. He attended Parsons for five years, completing such courses as "Comic Book Illustration," taught by Marvel editor **Bob Budiansky**.

"Bob's course really taught me how to relate to a comic book editor," Chris recalled. "I now have an idea of what an editor expects in terms of composition and storytelling." Bob was so impressed with Chris's work that he was instrumental in landing him his current position. Chris considers his job as a Raider a good transition from his present capability to a level of professionalism.

As the son of a serviceman, Chris lived in many parts of the world. Comic books were readily available everywhere and he considered them a root to some semblance of stability.

Chris remembers reading comics at the early age of eight. "I started drawing like many artists do," he said, "I traced comics." By 10th grade he had accumulated several notebooks filled with sketches of super heroes. He was showing them around in a science class one day when the teacher confiscated them and told him to see the guidance counselor. Thinking he was in trouble. Chris was surprised to learn that the teacher had actually arranged for him to take some art courses. Until then he had been entirely self-taught.

Among his major influences he cites **John Byrne** and **George Perez**. But he has recently gained an appreciation for the veterans such as **Milton Caniff** and **Al Williamson**.

The two pages of Chris's samples shown here represent a "before and after" motif. Chris

inked a sample page of **Todd McFarlane s** pencils on THE INCREDIBLE HULK *before* art director **Don Perlin** critiqued his work. *After* Don's counseling, he inked **John Buscema's** pencils of **Mephisto**. This is what Don had to say:

"An inker must be able to maintain what I call 'line economy.' This means that he must use lines sparingly, even if the penciler draws them in, to prevent the picture from looking cluttered and confusing. Many times a penciler will add unnecessary lines to his pencils because he is unsure of their placement. It is the inker's job to choose those that will solidify the form in the simplest manner.

"Take a look at the fourth panel of the HULK page: there are too many lines on the Hulk's face — they tend to destroy the structure of the head. Although Chris didn't lose the flavor of the pencils, he adhered to them too closely. In other words, he traced the pencils without selecting a few lines to carry the forms.

"On this page, Chris's foregrounds are composed in the same style as his backgrounds, making it difficult to distinguish between them. For example, in the last panel, the grass in the background has the same texture as the grass in the foreground. So do the characters. By varying the weights of his lines, Chris could have made the Man-Bull's arm in panel three seem to pop right out at us. By contrasting the line thickness in the foreground from that of the background, an inker can achieve a greater sense of three-dimensionality.

"After I made Chris aware of these minor problems, he went to work on the Mephisto page. He's a fast study. He applied everything I taught him to this page. Notice the nice line work. He kept the drawing and structure of Buscema's layout intact without losing any freedom of movement in it. The textures are good: there is a real difference between the inanimate objects and the figures. However, I'd like to see more line economy on the figure of Mephisto. Then the difference between him and the surrounding objects would be even more pronounced.

"Otherwise, Chris has maintained the quality of the drawing. The rendering of the foreground is very simple, with an economy of line work. The light figure against the dark background makes it stand out. He also used a layered texture, setting up tiers moving toward the background, adding to the 3-D effect.

"Chris is a good, willing worker and it won't be long before he's in the ranks of the pros. He has a lot of ability; all the Raiders do. Now they just need the chance to prove themselves."

— Glenn Herdling

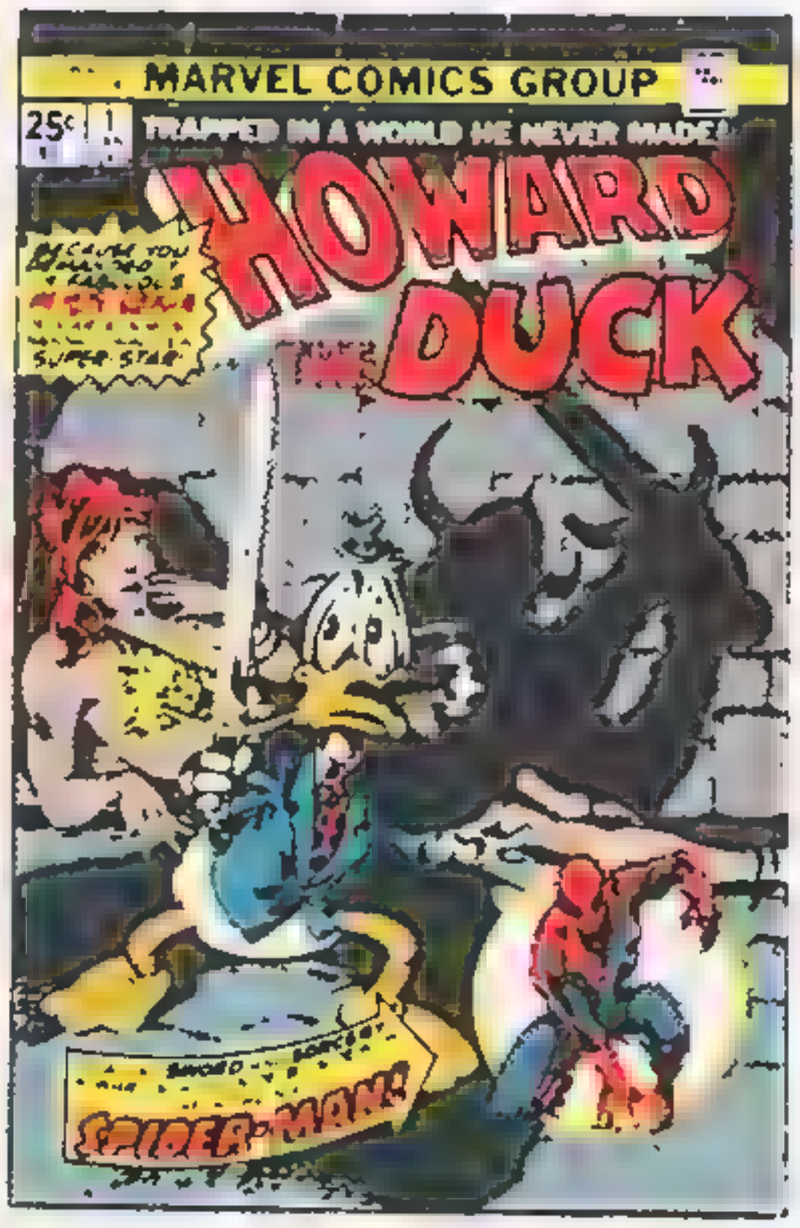
THE MARVEL AGE® 1976 PT. II

1976 was a big year for premieres of new super heroes — of all kinds! The most mysterious debuted quite early in the year: **Steve Gerber's** bizarre character, OMEGA THE UNKNOWN! This entire article could be filled trying to explain **Omega** — suffice it to say, he was an enigmatic alien who had a strange, symbiotic relationship with child prodigy **James-Michael Starling**. What were their origins? Why had James-Michael been raised by androids posing as his parents? What visions were coming to them in their dreams? While we puzzled over these questions, Omega took on **the Hulk**, **Electro**, and the mysterious **El Gato**, in a series that kept everyone guessing like none other before.

A more conventional hero was NOVA — THE LIVING ROCKET! Young **Rich Ryder** was just going to high school, enjoying his crush on pretty **Ginger Jaye** — when he suddenly found himself the recipient of the power of an alien **Nova-Centurion**! His amazing space-born powers brought him into conflict with **the Condor**, **Diamondhead**, **Powerhouse**, and even the mighty **Thor**, who had been brainwashed by the evil **Corruptor**! NOVA took the spirit of the early SPIDER-MAN issues and brought it into the present — a team-up between the two heroes was close on the horizon.

BLACK GOLIATH's new series began and ended in '76, but in its short duration he battled **Atom-Smasher**, **Vulcan**, **Stilt-Man**, and the rigors of an alien world! From Atom-Smasher he received a dose of radiation that would have near-lethal consequences, but **Bill Foster's** story would be continued not in his own book, but in the pages of MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE.

Undoubtedly the most successful debut in '76, though, was also the weirdest: that fearless fowl, HOWARD THE DUCK! **Howard's** first issue introduced him to **Spider-Man**, as well as to his lifelong love, **Beverly Switzler** — more importantly, it pitted Howard against a series of looney but lethal threats, the likes of which could



only be found in Cleveland! There was **Pro-Rata**, the mad financial wizard; **the Deadly Space Turnip** who possessed sf writer **Arthur Winslow**; the nefarious **Kidney Lady**; **Winky-Man**, sleepwalking vigilante; and the incredible cookie creature baked up by the **Reverend June Moon Yuc** and his disciples, **the Yuccies**! If Howard hadn't learned Quak-Fu from the teachings of the venerable **Master C'haaj**, he might never have survived!

Of course, more heroes — both new and old — were taking their bows every month in the pages of MARVEL PREMIERE and MARVEL SPOTLIGHT. PREMIERE brought us the never-to-be-forgotten **Legion of Monsters**: **Ghost Rider**, **Man-Thing**, **Morbius**, and **Werewolf by Night**, united (in a way) against the extraterrestrial, **Starseed**! Next, **Roy Thomas** introduced **the Liberty Legion**, a squadron of stateside super heroes formed by **Bucky**, to rescue **the Invaders** from the mind-control of **the Red Skull**! The **Bill Mantlo Keith Giffen** creation, **Woodgod**, was a memorable one-shot, as a genetically engineered child-monster struggled to understand his brave new world. **Monark Starstalker**, a futuristic bounty hunter, and the Puritan adventurer **Solomon Kane** were the next two features, both from the talented pen of **Howard Chaykin**!

Over in SPOTLIGHT, **the Scarecrow** enjoyed his second story, protecting our Earth from the extradimensional demon, **Kalumai**. **The Sub-Mariner** battled **the Symbionic Man**, first creation of **Deathlok's** old nemesis, **Simon Ryker**. But the SPOTLIGHT highlight of the year was unquestionably the first solo effort of the **Moench Perlin** hero, **Moon Knight**! In a two-part epic, we met **Marlene**, and Moon Knight's three secret identities, and enough unique action that Moon Knight was surely on his way as one of the most popular new heroes of the decade! The **Warriors Three** from Asgard next starred in SPOTLIGHT, followed by a seminal **Nick Fury** exploit, which explained how Nick has remained so young all these years (and it's not Grecian Formula 16)!

For all the new and unusual heroes taking the stage, the old reliables could still be counted on for solid adventure. In DAREDEVIL, after quick clashes with **the Man-Bull** and a pack of voodoo cultists, ol' **Hornhead** had his first run-in with **Bullseye**, the man who could make anything a lethal weapon! **Matt** and **Foggy** opened the Storefront, offering legal services to the disadvantaged, as **Blake Tower** took over the D.A.'s office. Psychic **Uri Geller** helped Matt against the criminal **Mind-Wave**, and **the Torpedo** lent a hand against the villainy of **the Chameleon**. But DD's toughest time of the year was delivered by **the Jester**, who used media manipulation to make himself a hero and Daredevil a wanted outlaw! This three-part thriller was followed by a crossover with GHOST RIDER, as DD and **Johnny Blaze** worked together to rescue **Karen Page** from the kidnap scheme of **Death's Head**! Foggy's fiancee, **Debbie Harris**, was also kidnaped, but by whom? This mystery would continue well into 1977, setting up one of DD's most harrowing exploits. In the meantime, **the Beetle**, **the Gladiator**, and the DAREDEVIL ANNUAL, featuring **Namor** and **the Black Panther**, gave the Man Without

Fear plenty to keep himself out of the pool halls.

The Black Panther saw some of his most controversial stories ever, in his own book, JUNGLE ACTION! But it wasn't the jungle of Wakanda that produced the menace, but rather the racial tension of the American South! **Angela**, the sister of **T'Challa's** beloved **Monica Lynne**, had been murdered — by **the Klan**? By the equally vicious **Dragon's Circle Cult**? The Panther endured being tied to a flaming cross and being chained to a millwheel as he sought out the answers to the mystery. But neither his new friend, reporter **Kevin Trublood**, nor the enigmatic **Wind Eagle**, could help him — it was a riddle whose solution would wait for another year.

Panther scripter **Don McGregor** was also hard at work on POWER MAN! In '76 he continued **Cage's** struggle against **Cockroach Hamilton** and **Piranha Jones**, whose schemes with a deadly nerve gas threatened all of Manhattan! Cop **Quentin Chase** worked with Cage against the racist killer known as **Wildfire**! **The Mangler** and **Spear** were assassins after Cage's friend, **Noah Burstein**, avenging themselves for his questionable human experiments at Seagate Prison. Through it all, Luke's war with the vending machine remained a comic constant. **Marv Wolfman** came on board to script Power Man's new battles with **Chemistro**, **Big Brother**, and **the Cheshire Cat**, and the POWER MAN ANNUAL introduced Cage to the malevolent **Moses Magnum**!

McGregor, meanwhile, was wrapping up his own magnum opus, the saga of **Killraven** in AMAZING ADVENTURES. Headed for Yellowstone, to find Killraven's brother, the band of warriors suffered the worst of blows — one of their number, **Hawk**, was killed by the treacherous Martian assassin, **Skar**. Though Killraven and his troops would encounter many wondrous sights — **Emmanual**, **the 24-Hour Man**, or the visions of the Dream Dome — their journey remained unfinished until the Marvel Graphic Novel of a few years back. Their last comic book episode brought **M'Shulla**, **Old Skull**, **Carmilla Frost**, and Killraven himself to the Everglades, where they met the beautiful, evanescent **Mourning Prey**, and reflected on the transcience of all beauty.

Beauty was certainly in short supply in Deathlok's world of the 1990s; over in ASTONISHING TALES, his adventures too were drawing to a close. His conflicts with the cyborg **Hellinger** and the ghetto **Godwulf** would have to wait for other years, other series to be resolved.

But one hero who's never had any problem resolving anything is the INCREDIBLE HULK! **The Hulkbuster** sicced **the Abomination** on ol' Green-Skin early in the year, but got a violent surprise when the two green goliaths decided to team up! It looked bad until **Betty** cracked through the Hulk's confusion, and the unholy alliance was sundered! The Hulk and **the Man-Thing** next found themselves allies, both the prizes of **the Collector**! Along with **the Glob**, the man-monsters freed the Collector's prisoners — only to see them turn to dust in Earth's atmosphere! Then, **Doc Samson** and S.H.I.E.L.D. tackled the Hulk — but not just to cage him! The mindless body of **Glenn Talbot** was to be saved by a rather odd form of therapy — with a helmet to give him **Bruce Banner's** intelligence, the Hulk would be shrunk and projected into Talbot's brain to do battle with the psychic forces that kept Talbot a vegetable! It worked — but kids, don't try this at home!

While Talbot was back to health, though, the Hulk had continued shrinking into sub-atomic worlds, where he defeated **Kronak the Barbarian**, and the villainous **Psyklop**! The wonders of chance reunited him with his precious **Jarella**, and the emerald sweethearts returned to Earth — but also to tragedy. Jarella was killed by the mindless carnage of the robot known as **the Crypto-Man**, setting the Hulk off on a rampage that perhaps no one could stop! Luckily, there were plenty of creeps on hand in the HULK ANNUAL for him to vent his spleen on — an army of uglies from the early '60s monster comics, including **Taboo**, **Blip**, **Diablo**, **Groot**, **Goom**, and **Xemnu**, **the Living Titan**! Still, the Hulk's rampage continued, and it would take his fellow teammates, **the Defenders**, to give the world any hope of peace! But as for the Defenders — well, we'll cover team comics next month! See ya then!

— Brian Nelson

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Did we move through a pile of amazing adventures this month, or what? (Not to mention astonishing tales!) Here's what you can expect to pay for back issues of these various mags at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember — this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **AMAZING ADVENTURES**			
34-39 (**Killraven**)		30	60
■ **ASTONISHING TALES**			
32-36		30	60
■ **BLACK GOLIATH**			
1		40	80
2–5		30	60
■ **DAREDEVIL**			
129–130, 132–137, 139, 140		60	1.20
131 (origin **Bullseye**)	75	2.25	4.50
138 (**Byrne** art, g.a. **Ghost Rider**)	45	1.40	2.80
ANNUAL 4	35	1.10	2.20
■ **HOWARD THE DUCK**			
1 (**Brunner** art, g.a. **Spider-Man**)	1.15	3.50	7.00
2	40	1.25	2.50
3	25	80	1.60
4–7		60	1.20
■ **INCREDIBLE HULK**			
195–199, 201–206		50	1.00
200	40	1.20	2.40
ANNUAL 5		60	1.20
■ **JUNGLE ACTION**			
19–24 (**Black Panther**/KKK)		30	60
■ **MARVEL PREMIERE**			
28 (**Legion of Monsters**)	25	80	1.60
29–33		40	80
■ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT**			
26, 27, 30, 31		.30	.60
28–29 (**Moon Knight**)	50	1.50	3.00
■ **NOVA**			
1	45	1.40	2.80
2–3		60	1.20
4	35	70	
■ **OMEGA THE UNKNOWN**			
1		40	80
2–5 (2, **Hulk** g.a.)		30	60
■ **POWER MAN**			
29–31		60	1.20
32–38 **ANNUAL** 1		50	1.00

A Whiter Shade of Mail

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,
c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

This month's letter column title is the brainchild of William Bussard and Larry Gibson of Spokane, Washington. Thanks a lot, guys!

We don't know about you, but seeing Larry and William's play on the title of one of our favorite songs of the '60s sure takes us back to those halcyon days of peace signs and love beads. Maybe we won't open any more mail. We'll meditate instead. All together now: Ommmmm . . .

What? Oh, all right, Tom, we'll get on with it. Man, just as we were groovin', too . . .

But hey, before we settle down into our mail (not to mention the 1980s), we want all you cats out there to dig the fact that we still need a groovy new letter column title every month. So get your karma in gear and send 'em on in! We'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks, man, you're beautiful."

Marvel Dudes,

Before I tell you how much I love your comics, I'd like to complain a bit (Don't worry, this will be brief.) Firstly, I'm 17, female, and *sick* and *tired* of getting dirty looks from 13 year-old boys and the guys who work in comics stores!

I currently own 140 comics (and counting), perhaps a small collection but serious all the same. I think it's about time women readers spoke up. Write in, girls! Secondly, I'm getting a bit worried about the mutant situation. I love those guys, but the way you keep killing them off, one would think the Bullpen was anti-mutant! What's the deal? You kill half the mutants in 86, then the rest in '87! I must say that I was so upset about what was happening in the Marvel Universe that when the New Universe came along, I jumped for it. And fell (in love) hook, line, and sinker! I'd never (gasp, ack) quit Marvel!

This brings me to the congratulatory part of the letter: CONGRATULATIONS! The New Universe is fabulous! I'm sorry to see NIGHTMASK go, but I have faith other titles will replace it that are just as good if not better. Please, do not change the direction. I think the New Universe stories are some of the best stuff I've read. Please keep in mind though that life has its *ups* as well as downs. Having paranormal powers doesn't mean one can't be happy. Even **Justice** needs to laugh; *everyone* needs a release from depressing normal life whatever normal life is. Let us share the happy moments as well as the tense or sad ones. My release is Marvel. How do you dudes relax? Read **Shakespeare**? Seriously, though, I (and I'm sure others) want to see the un-serious side of my friends in the New Universe.

Until an anti-paranormal hysteria, Make Mine Marvel! And tell **Marc Siry** "hello" and that I'm a close friend of his brother's, from school.

Nina L. Kish
425 Riverside Drive #13C
New York, NY 10025

Thanks for your thoughts, Nina — and Marc Siry says "Hello" right back! We agree with you about the need to see the lighter side of things, but after what happened in THE PITT, it might be hard for anyone to find a moment of laughter.

Dear **Fred Hembeck**,

Do you have e.s.p., or have you known all along?

I'm referring to "Hembeck's Page" in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #44, where a conference is called with **Iron Man**, **Spider-Man**, **Thor**, **the Invisible Woman**, and our mutual friend, **Captain America** (**Steve Rogers**).

The strip opens with Cap saying, "I know why we're here. *My costume's being changed!* Look, leave the colors, okay? And (sob) NO POLKA DOTS!" It ends with Cap (relieved that he's wrong) *asking* for a costume change.

At the time, this was funny. In view of current events, I take the Iranscam approach of asking what you knew and when you knew it. At any rate, your page is very good.

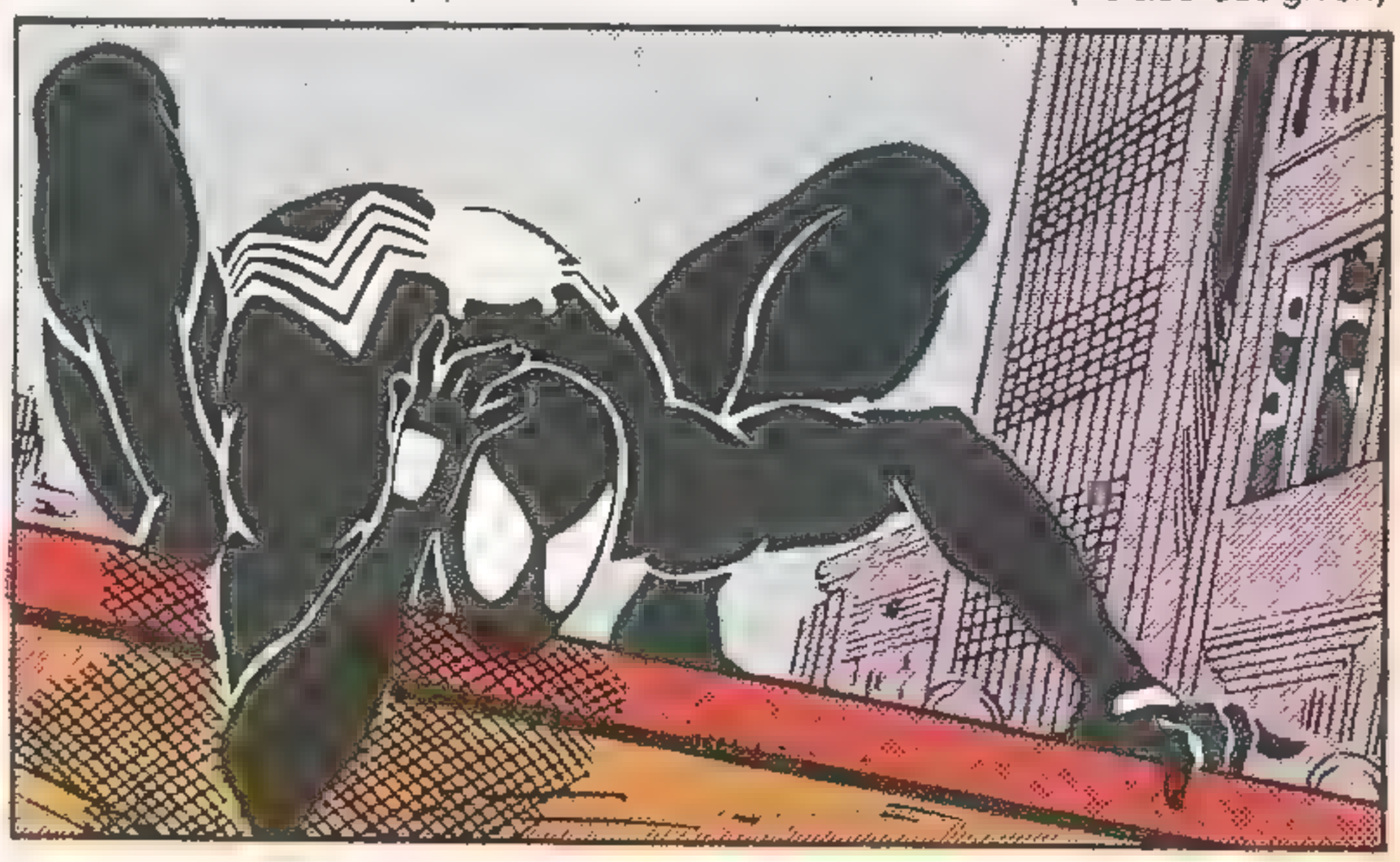
David Purves
(no address given)

Say, we don't call Fred the "Sage of Marvel Age" for nothing!

Dear Marvel Age Group,

I am writing in reponse to the big deal being made about the costume changes of some of your more popular characters. I am disappointed. In changing the costumes you are not only changing what the character wears, but also the tradition and respect of the original costumes. Take Captain America for example. Since when has black been an American color? Steve Rogers is still Captain America to me no matter who fills the position. Then there is the ever-loving Spider-Man. I have never liked his new costume. It's not his style. He's more outgoing and friendly than the dark, sinister look of his new costume. Of course, there are a few who look basically the same such as Thor and Iron Man, but what about **the Hulk**? If you ask any kid what color the Hulk is, he'd say green, *not* gray. Is everyone at Marvel becoming gray, dark, and ugly? As far as the upcoming changes in the **Thing**, don't you think he's ugly enough already? I mean really, give it up.

Heather French
(no address given)



You've made a number of valid points, Heather. But, change is one of the things that has made the Marvel Universe what it is! Sometimes, as in what's happening in CAPTAIN AMERICA, that change is controversial. Other times, as with the Hulk, the creative team is returning to the character's roots. For when the Hulk debuted in his own magazine in 1962, his original color was gray! We're sorry that some of the costume changes disappointed you, but in fairness, a lot of people like the changes. All we can say is, stay with us, because sooner or later, everything does change — as, for instance, it will in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300, when the fate of the black costume is finally decided!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

Since **Tom DeFalco** is now the editor in chief of Marvel Comics, does that mean he will no longer be writing? In my humble opinion, he and **Peter David** are the best SPIDER-MAN writers (not to say that Peter doesn't do an awesome job on THE INCREDIBLE HULK)

Why, oh why, was PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM canceled? It wasn't "just another kiddie comic."

hris Smith
Elgin, IL

No need to worry, Chris! Good ol' Tom "Sleep? Who needs sleep?" DeFalco has no intention of giving up writing! You can find his work every single month in the pages of THOR and SOLO AVENGERS.

And as for Peter Porker, well, everyone's favorite web-slinging swine may not have his own comic book anymore, but he's still as active as ever in a series of all-new adventures in the back of each issue of MARVEL TALES. Guess you just can't keep a good pig down

Ah, the old clock on the wall tells us that it's time once again for the LETTER OF THE MONTH! Each month, we choose a letter that we think will be of special interest to Marveldom at large. (In fact, sometimes, we even pick two letters if we're in a particularly good mood.) Then we print it right here against a canary yellow background that's almost exactly the same color as MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE reporter Sholly Fisch's new car. (And no, he didn't choose the car's color himself. He's not *that* stupid.)

This issue's Letter of the Month should be of particular interest to all those folks who write letters to this very column.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

I have a special question. Out of the many letters you receive each month, how do you know which ones to print?

Jeremy Ulrey
140 El Dorado
Southlake, Texas 76092

Well, Jeremy, it ain't easy!

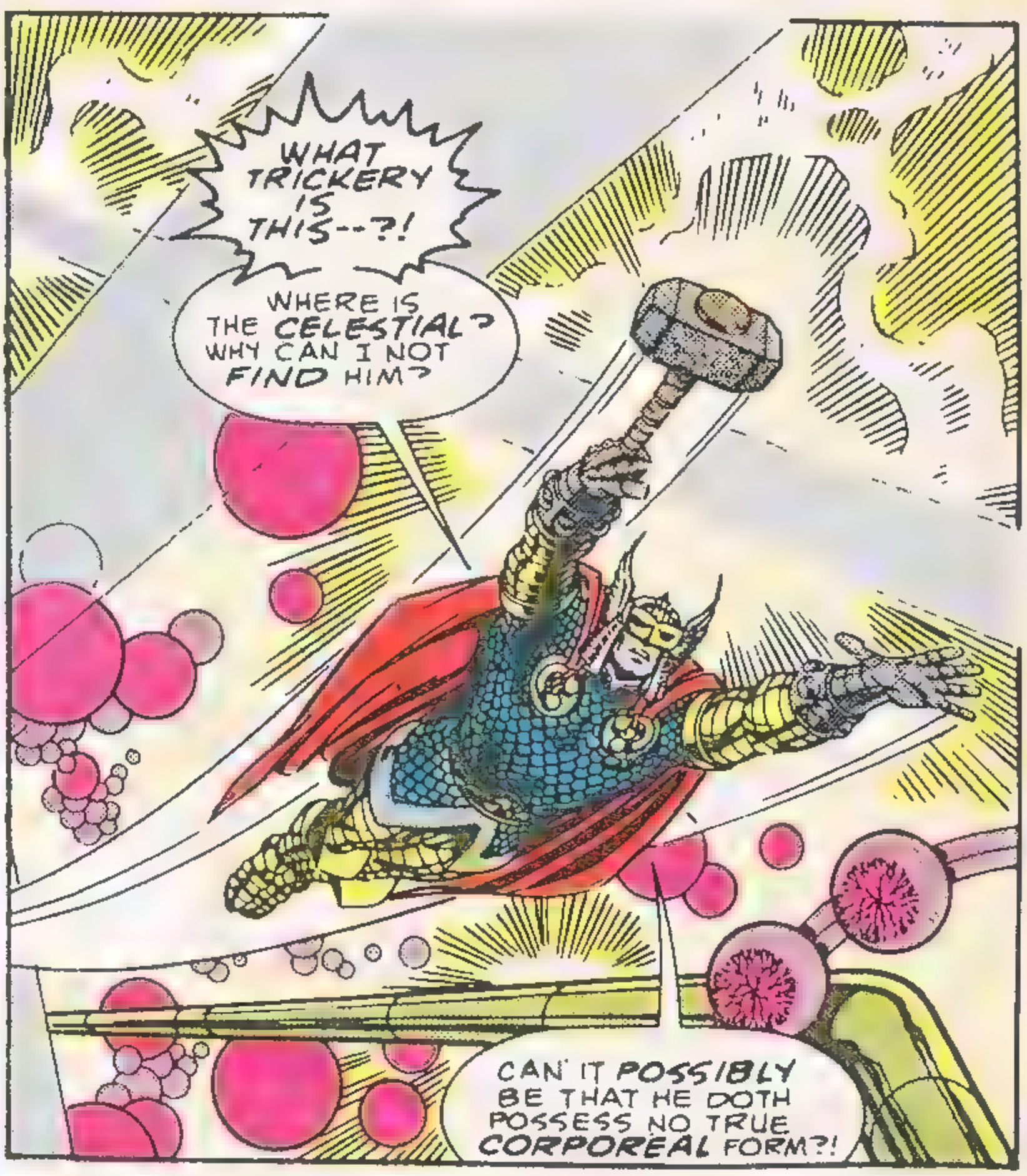
Actually, we get so many great letters (there are about a hundred or so still waiting to be opened even as this column is being written) that there's no way that we could ever respond to them personally, let alone print them all. But as we've said so often before, that doesn't mean we don't read and appreciate each and every one!

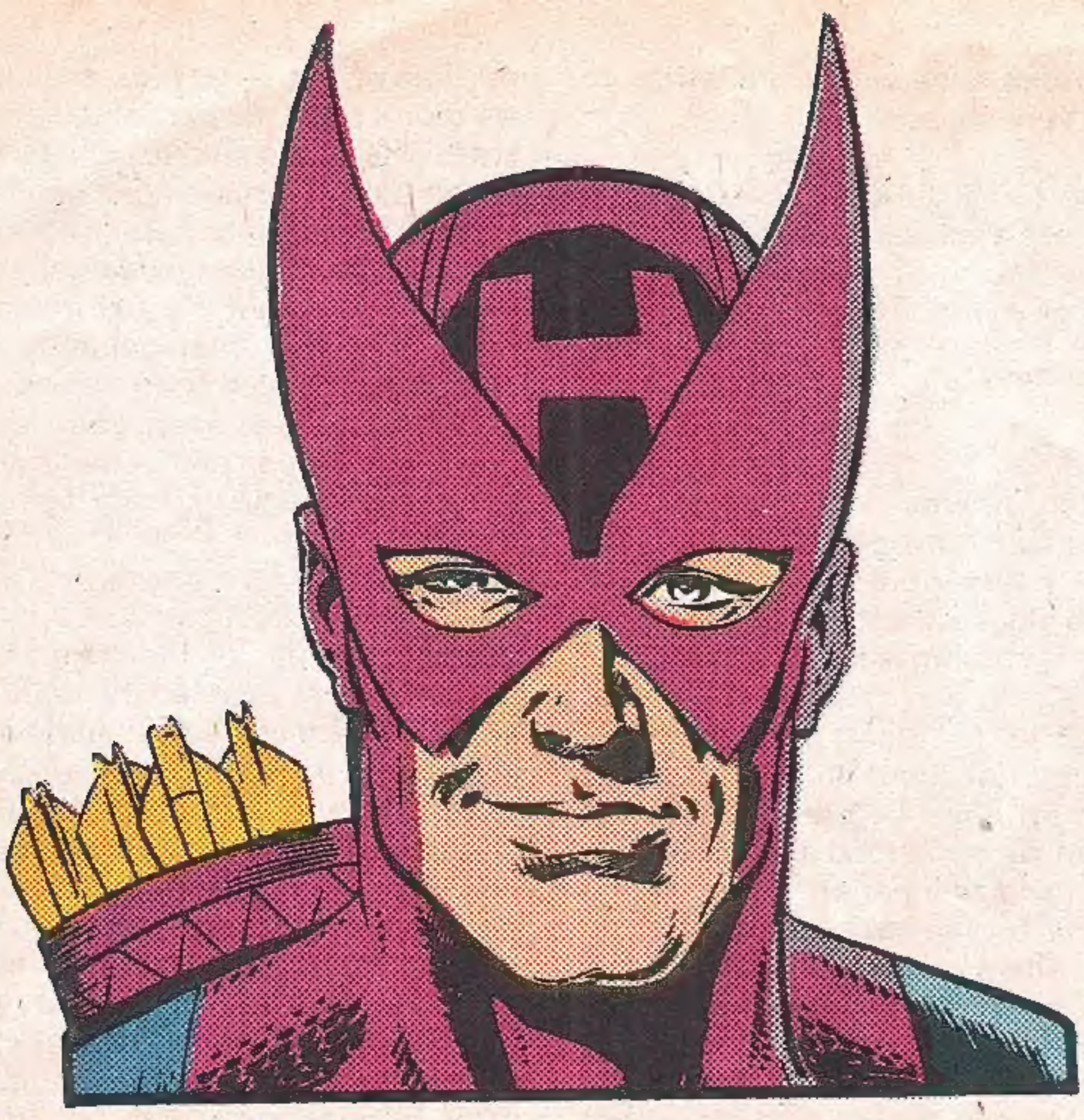
Still, for the sake of our many letter writers out there, here's a few tips to improve your chances of getting a letter printed in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE:

Number 1: Keep your letter short. Obviously, we don't have enough room in this column to print letters that go on for four or five pages (although we do receive some). Occasionally, if we think some particular point in a long letter is unusually important, we'll print that portion of the letter; for example, we didn't print the part of Jeremy's letter where he asked to be listed as a pen pal (of course, you can still write to him, though). But as a rule, since we don't like the idea of editing letters (even if it's just to make them fit in the letter column), we tend not to print long letters. A good guide is to keep your letter down to one page (either hand-written or double-spaced on a typewriter).

Number 2: Ask a question. If you look, you'll notice that most (though not all) of the letters we print are from people who want to know something. Some questions are about upcoming Marvel projects. Others are about Marvel characters or simply Marvel in general. So if there's something you've got on your mind, let us know about it! But keep in mind that the questions we print are things that are going to be of interest to a lot of people. We're much more likely to print a question such as "How about a solo series for the Beast?" than we are to print one that starts off "I found a mistake in FANTASTIC FOUR #122, page 7, panel 3 . . ."

Number 3: Make us laugh A quick glance at any MARVEL AGE


WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS--?!
WHERE IS THE CELESTIAL? WHY CAN I NOT FIND HIM?
CAN IT POSSIBLY BE THAT HE DOTH POSSESS NO TRUE CORPOREAL FORM?!



MAGAZINE letter column will show you that we're basically just a bunch of fun-loving guys. We try to include one or two letters that just plain amuse us (and, we hope, the folks reading these columns) in every column. But if you're writing in *only* to make us laugh, try to keep your letter especially short, since we like to cram as much information as we can into these letter columns.

And there you have it. Basically, we'll print any letter we think will be of interest to the majority of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's audience. Of course, following these three guidelines won't *guarantee* that your letter will be printed, but it'll sure help your chances!

Oh, and while we're on the subject, don't forget that you can also get mentioned in one of these columns by sending in a letter column title or by joining our Pen Pal Club! And if you've sent in your name to the Pen Pal Club but haven't seen it in print yet, don't worry. You see, thanks to the overwhelming success of the club, we've already got enough names and addresses to last us through the next year! Please be patient. We'll get around to everybody eventually. We promise.

Hey, but in the meantime, why not write to somebody who's already been listed in our Pen Pal Club section? They might not print your letter anyplace, but we'll bet they're swell people anyway!

Dear Marvel,

I know who the three unknown **Elders of the Universe** are . . . They are the band of ZZ Top who are:

Billy Gibbons: Guitar and vocals,
Dusty Hill: Bass and vocals,
and **Frank Beard**: Drums.

Well, what do you think? There are three open spaces in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. They have shown great powers in their videos, which I know you can turn into a four-issue Limited Series (I have great trust in Marvel Comics), guest appearance, or something similar.

Joey "Kid Cosmic" Bingham
Rt. 1, Box 76-A
Kosciusko, MS 39090

So the guys from ZZ Top are Elders of the Universe, eh? You know, that makes us take their advice a little more seriously. And they did say "Every girl's crazy 'bout a sharp-dressed man." Hmm . . .

Excuse us, everybody. We've got to go see about getting some new clothes. But while we're gone, here's this month's installment of THE MARVEL AGE PEN PAL CLUB for you to look over. Check it out, pick out a pen pal, and drop him or her a line! Who knows? It might just be the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

And if you'd like to be listed in this space yourself, simply send a letter, telegram, or picture postcard with your name, address, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel series to Marvel Age Pen Pal Club at the address atop this letter column. And while you're at it, why not send in a name for the club? "Marvel Age Pen Pal Club" just doesn't quite have enough zing, does it?

Luis Antonio Solivan Jr.
2152 W. 19th Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Age: 20
Favorites: X-MEN, SPIDER-MAN, X-FACTOR

Arthur Lee
5826 L'Esplanade
Montreal, Quebec
H2T 3A3 CANADA
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: NEW MUTANTS, X-MEN, X-FACTOR

Gary Skogen
14 Brunele Key
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2G 2C6 CANADA
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, WEST COAST AVENGERS, X-FACTOR

Aaron Acox
Rt. 2, Box 81
Wheelersburg, OH 45694-9603
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR

Jeff "The X-Man" Millies
5315 W. Otto Pl.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Russell Ashenberg
484 Sunderland Rd.
Teaneck, NJ 07666
Age: 17
Favorites: THE PUNISHER, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

Steven Stark
RR #1, Box 18
Edgerton, OH 43517
Age: 16
Favorites: WEST COAST AVENGERS, AVENGERS, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Matt Nelson
6347 Haviland Ave.
Whittier, CA 90601
Age: 13
Favorites: G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS, PUNISHER

Charley Kottler
197 St. Joseph St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Age: 14
Favorites: ALIEN LEGION, STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI, THE 'NAM

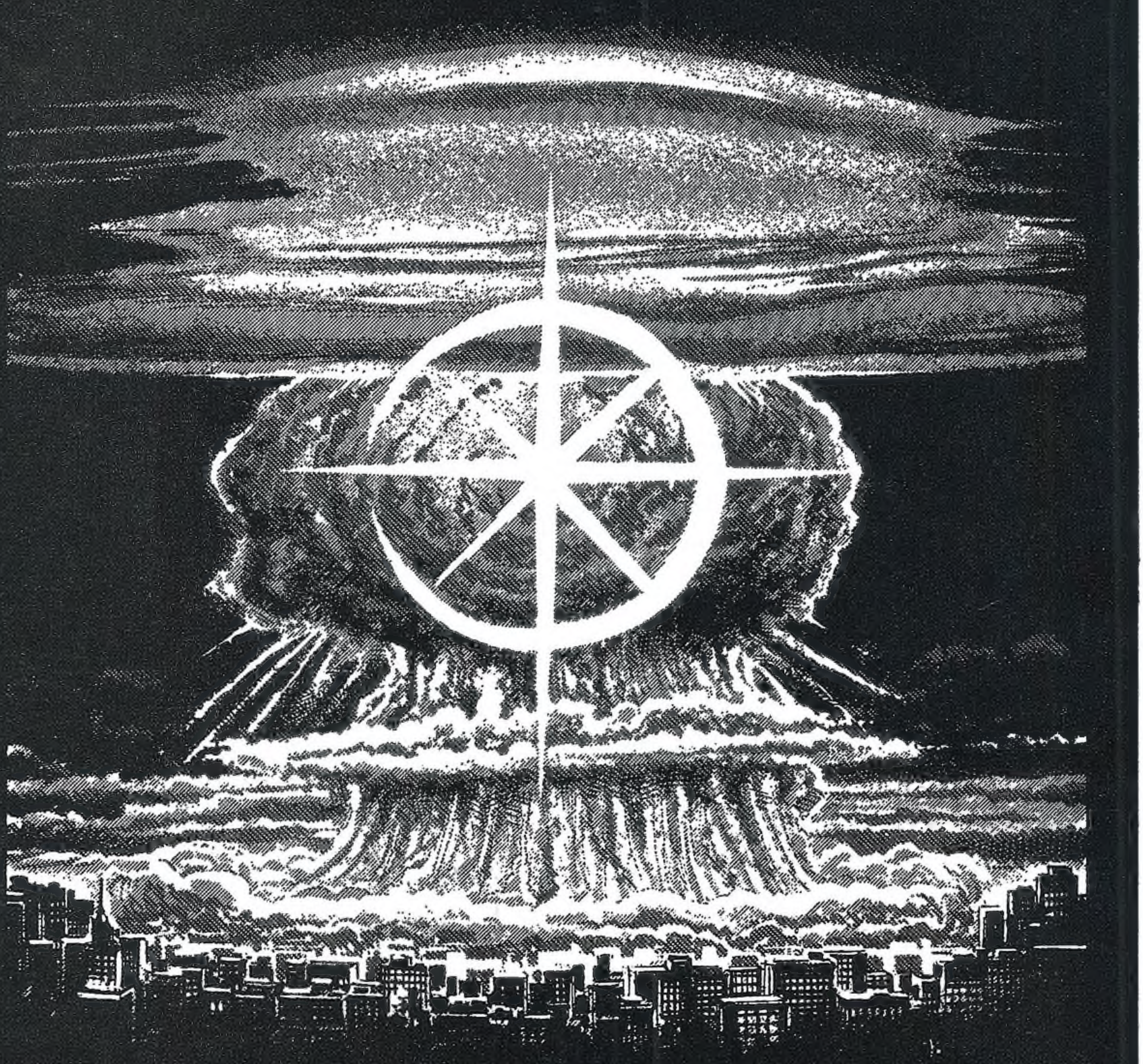
Jonathan Romeo
1708 Capistrano Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37922
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

There's another great advantage to this multiple choice format: it leaves a little more room for letters!

1) B	6) C	11) A	16) B
2) B	7) B	12) B	17) A
3) B	8) C	13) B	18) A
4) A	9) B	14) B	19) B
5) C	10) A	15) A	20) A

IF YOU LIVE IN PITTSBURGH, GET OUT. NOW. WHILE YOU STILL CAN.



THE PITT™

A NEW UNIVERSE™ BOOKSHELF FORMAT SPECIAL EDITION
BY JOHN BYRNE, MARK GRUENWALD, SAL BUSCEMA & STAN DRAKE
ON SALE IN DECEMBER. FROM MARVEL®

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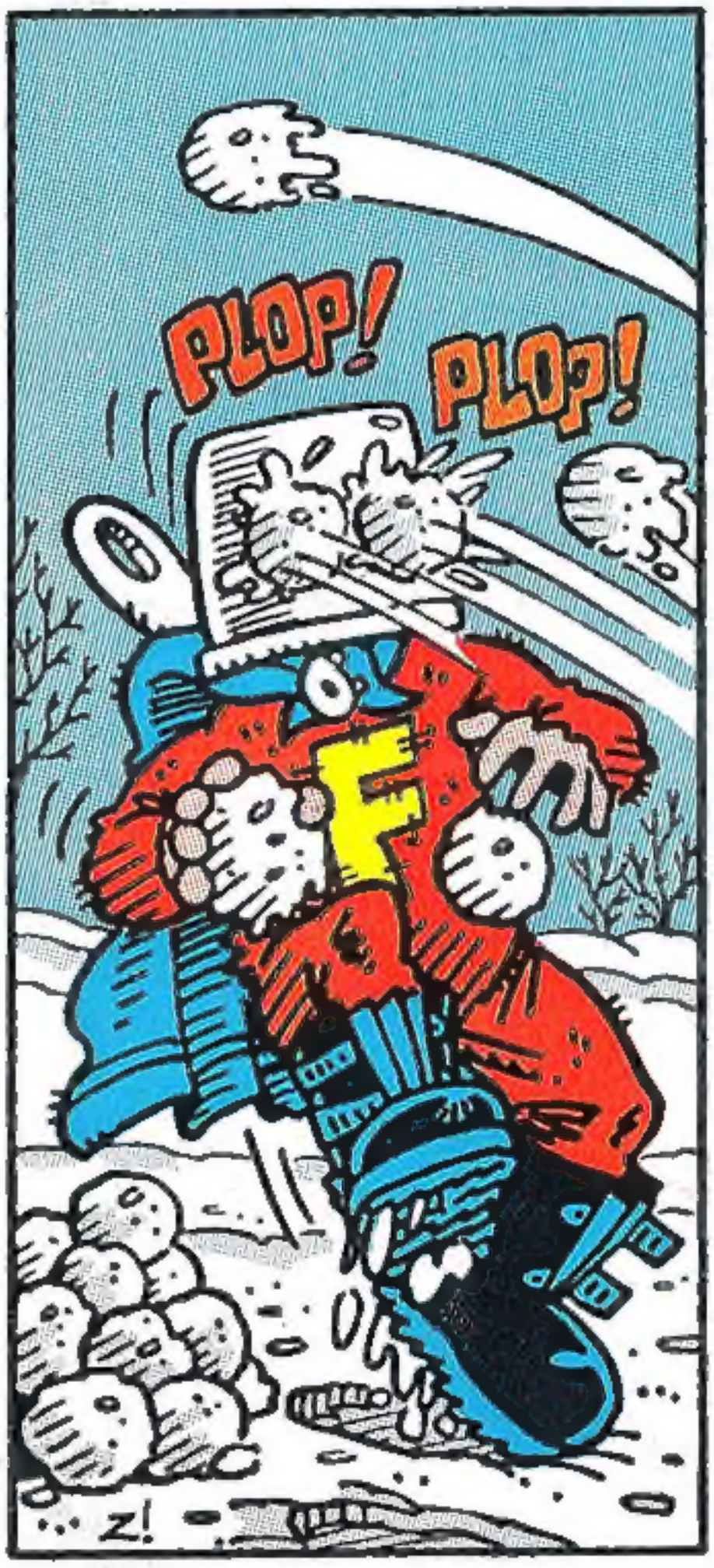
THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

DECEMBER EXCHANGE

OF GIFTS WITH BROKEN PARTS



MIKE CARLIN—WRITER **RON ZALME**—ARTIST **PAUL BECTON**—COLORIST

AY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY

2

3 HMM...

=CHIP= =SCULPT= =CHISEL=

ONLY 20 MORE SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS!

5

HDAY, PENT ON!

I AM NOT THE HOB-GOBLIN!

MAN! BUSCEMA'S EVEN FASTER THAN ME!

10

TODAY IS JOHN BUSCEMA'S BIRTH-DAY!

BIG SCHMEAL!

11

12

ARC TEIS'S PAY!

S WHAT IN TS OF N? MOON ADOW NOWS!

13

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ANDY MUSHYNSKY!

CLEAN UP THOSE FINGERNAILS, SOLDIER!

17

18

19 MY FAVORITE COMEDIAN? WHY MORITURI AMSTERDAM OF COURSE!

IT'S PETER GILLIS'S BIRTHDAY!

Y DAY! SHT!

23 HAPPY BIRTHDAY! PHIL FELIX!

I LIKE YOUR LETTER-ING, JOE!

GROLSH

24 TOMORROW IS JOE ROSEN'S BIRTH-DAY!

DITTO, PHIL!

25 THEY MAKE ME DO THIS EVERY YEAR!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TOMORROW IS MARK BRIGHT'S BIRTHDAY!

HOLY CHRISTMAS!

26

29

HDAY, ON!

TOMORROW IS FABIAN NICIEZA'S BIRTHDAY!

IF I SAY THAT NAME BACKWARDS, DO I DISAPPEAR?

30

NEW YEARS EVE!

31

(BUY A NEW CAL-ENDAR, QUICK!)

HAPPY 1988!

EXCELSIOR EVEN!